**Orange High School: English III**

**Mr. Benjamin Whitermore - Room 278** **E-mail**: [whiterbe@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:whiterbe@orange.k12.nj.us)

Google Classroom Codes

* Period 1: fbuktct
* Period 3: jnebtz3
* Period 7: q564rxx

**ABOUT ME:** I’ve been teaching English for the last eight years in a district just outside of Philadelphia, PA. As you may expect, I love to read and write! My favorite genres are fantasy and science fiction, but I honestly enjoy most genres if they’re written well (it’s important to read widely!). Besides the realm of English, I love games – sports, cards, video/board games - and I’ve been a dungeon master for a group of Dungeons and Dragons players that has existed since 2005. I also enjoy cooking, gardening, riding my bike, and hanging out with my wife and three cats.

**WHAT IS English III?**

In this course, students will examine literature from the ever-expanding world canon. Through this exposure, students will explore the human condition as presented in poetry, drama, speeches, non-fiction and memoir. Students will acquire an understanding of how to read and analyze a variety of texts at the high school level through this close analysis. Reading instruction will expand students’ literary vocabulary and provide them with a framework for close reading, critical analysis, and written work. Course readings will also include informational and persuasive texts such that students will learn to read for diverse purposes. These texts will serve as the catalyst for students to practice writing in the informational, argumentative, persuasive, and narrative modes. Writing instruction will emphasize integrating appropriate textual evidence in literary analysis. Finally, students will develop an understanding of reading and writing as recursive processes.

**MAJOR TEXTS**

**Poetry:** “I hear America Singing” - Walt Whitman

**“**I, Too, Sing America”

**Drama:**

**Non-Fiction/Essay:**

**Speeches:**

**GENERAL GOALS**

1. To improve and excel in our reading, writing, and speaking skills in accordance with the New Jersey Standards for the Language Arts

2. To understand the connection between literature and the human experience

3. To sharpen our critical thinking skills as we analyze a variety of texts

4. To express our ideas with greater clarity and purpose

5. To learn from each other as members of a committed, open-minded community of scholars

**READING SPECIFIC GOALS**

Using textual evidence, students will

• make/check predictions

• annotate texts

• make inferences

• make connections during reading

• determine main ideas and theme

• analyze characters and character development

• determine the role of setting and impact on characters and conflict

• analyze author’s style and craft

• analyze language choice and how it shapes character development

• read and interpret literary criticism/secondary sources

**WRITING SPECIFIC GOALS**

• create focused thesis statements

• write well-organized literary analysis essays

• identify and cite appropriate textual evidence

• establish context, incorporate direct quotation, and explain significance/connection to thesis

• identify and cite appropriate evidence from literary criticism/secondary sources

• establish a writer’s voice appropriate to the writing mode

**MATERIALS**

Each student will be provided with copies of the major texts we will be reading and any other prose or poetry. In addition, you will receive any necessary worksheets, study guides, grading rubrics, or assignments. To be successful, you will need to be organized, so be sure you have:

* School-Issued Chromebook
* School-Issued Textbook (Bedford’s Language and Composition)
* Three-Ring Binder with the following divisions:
  + Course Syllabus
  + Skill Video Checklist and Notes
  + Journal
  + Glossary of Literary Terms and Vocabulary
  + Notes
  + Handouts
  + Assignments
* Ink pen, highlighters (optional), and college-ruled, loose-leaf writing paper.
* It is mandatory that each student have their core text(s)and notes in class every day.

Note: Teachers and administrators will have the right to look at the students’ notebooks at any time.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Types**: For each unit, you can expect to have a test and/or an extensive writing project, and other writing assignments. You will find that you will be working on writing or reading assignments at all times during the year. Expect homework several days per week.

**Format**: Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments that will be turned in must be typed and follow MLA format. Please remember to staple your work. Assignments that do not follow the prescribed format will be penalized.

**Make-up Assignments**: For each day that you are absent, you will be given two days to make up your work beginning on the day you return to school (including quizzes and tests). Please remember that it is your responsibility to get the work that you have missed. Feel free to e-mail me for assignments and check my website. You can schedule an appointment with me during or after school if necessary.

**Homework**: All homework assignments should be completed by the beginning of the period on the day that it is due. Completed homework is necessary in order to participate in that day’s activity; therefore, homework turned in late will not receive credit.

**Late Assignments**: All assignments should be completed by the beginning of the period on the day that it is due or turned in by the designated time for online assignments (details to follow). Late assignments (that were collected) may be turned in but with a penalty. For each day that an assignment is late, your grade will be reduced by 10%. Work not submitted within 10 days will receive a grade of 0. In this technological age, computer and technical problems are a fact of life, but not a valid excuse for late work. As such, always have a Plan B. If you are having computer issues that may make it difficult for you to complete your assignment (for example, printer problems), consider the following back-up plans:

• E-mail your assignment to me (whiterbe@orange.k12.nj.us). E-mail your assignment as an attachment.

• Share your assignment with me via Google Classroom.

• Save your assignment on your USB flash drive and print it during your study hall or lunch.

• Hand-write your assignment and bring it to class.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

Students are expected to respect one another and their teacher. Respect includes, but is not restricted to:

• arriving on time to avoid interrupting class

• not bringing food or drink to class (except water)

• not using Airpods or a cell phone during class

• treating classmates and teachers courteously

You can also find the district rules and regulations in the Student/Teacher Handbook by using the following link: https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/85/SY%2022-23%20Student%20and%20Parent%20Handbook\_UPDATED.pdf

**GRADING**

Grades will be given based on completion and performance on all assignments, tests, and quizzes. (A+ 97-100; A 90-96; B+ 87-89; B 80-86; C+ 77-79; C 70-76; D+ 67-69; D 65-66; F <65)

**Class Participation and Preparation**

You will have plenty of opportunities to participate in class on a regular basis, and I expect each of you to do so. You can participate in class in many different ways, including engaging in whole-class discussion, collaborating with your peers, working diligently on your own, and listening attentively to others. A portion of your grade will also include completion and quality of your homework assignments. On days when a homework check is administered during class, you will receive points for completion. You may not make up a homework check. Only assignments that are collected may be turned in for late credit.

**Tests & Quizzes**

You will have tests that cover longer units in the curriculum. In addition, you will have both announced and un-announced quizzes and reading checks. Cumulative literary terms, vocabulary and usage quizzes will be given throughout each module

**Writing Assignments and Projects**

You will have at least 2-3 writing projects due per marking period as well as daily writing activities and essays of various types and purposes (literary analysis, argumentative, persuasive, etc…).

**Plagiarism/Cheating**

Unless otherwise indicated, you are expected to complete your own original work independently. Borrowing (including rewording) another person’s ideas without citing your source is plagiarism. I encourage you to help each other on assignments when necessary, but simply copying another student’s homework is cheating. Telling other students about the content of a quiz/test or seeking information from others who have already taken the quiz/test is also considered cheating. No grade is worth sacrificing your integrity. If you are having trouble, please see me as soon as possible before any issues escalate. Students who are caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a grade of 0 on the assignment and referred to the administration for disciplinary action.

**YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT**

1. Sign the accompanying page with contact information and bring back to school.
2. Complete the survey attached to the syllabus and hand it in tomorrow.

Please sign and date in the appropriate spaces below to signify that you have read and understood all course expectations. Also, it is sometimes necessary for me to contact a parent/guardian to discuss student progress. Please have your parent/guardian complete the contact information below.

I have read and understood the course requirements for English III.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians,

I’m excited to get to know your student this year! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at whiterbe@orange.k12.nj.us. Also, if you have a preferred method of contact, please indicate that by placing a star next to it.

-Benjamin Whitermore