

English 3-4 Syllabus

2022-2023

Ms. Mitzalis, Room 243

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Curriculum: We will read various short stories, novels and poetry to gain skills in literary analysis and understanding character development and narrative techniques. Texts include but are not limited to the *Engage New York* curriculum for grades 11 and 12. Junior English includes poetry by Langston Hughes, Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun*, excerpts from John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, with additional materials related to themes of social justice and equality. Students will explore elements of fiction and learn to delve deeper into understanding literature with an awareness of literary devices and author's purpose. English 4 texts include *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Overcoat*, *The Namesake* and *Yellow Woman*. Senior English includes a personal narrative, silent sustained reading, class discussion and various presentations related to themes and central ideas.

Participation: Class discussions are an important part of the program and students are encouraged to work in pairs, small groups, and whole class conversations. It is best when all students engage in the discussions and respect varied opinions that challenge their beliefs. Students are encouraged to keep an open mind and to listen when others are speaking.

Skills/Activities: Students will read, discuss, respond and write in order to gain insight into the material. Students will work to write with an awareness of task, purpose and audience and to specifically cite the text when responding to questions and ideas. Students will learn to understand inferences the author makes and to work with classmates to deepen their understanding of the text. Students will read an outside reading book of their choice and maintain a daily journal in class.

Students will develop writing skills to create essays that are clear, organized, varied in vocabulary, structured and engaging. The process of writing from initial drafts, editing, revision, final versions is used to help guide students to expand skills and create more complex essays that include: narrative, persuasive, creative, descriptive, expository.

Regular attendance is necessary to keep up with the material and discussions. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to access the assignments on Google Classroom and ask for assistance when needed. I am here to help you succeed and I want you to enjoy the class!