

English III
Ms. Rieckman or Ms. R

Contact

srieckman@west-fargo.k12.nd.us
701-356-2050 x9325

Office Location & Hours

Office: 205H during Block 4A / 3B or by
email / Schoology message

Need extra English help? Stop by 205 H during Block 4A/ 3B, or contact me via email/Schoology message

Course Description & Objectives:

Students will engage in the learning process and be instructed in all areas of the English Language Arts & Literacy subject matter. This includes but is not limited to elements of fiction and non-fiction works, required steps and skills of the writing process, grammatical studies, poetry, and dramatic production.

As a member of this course, you will be expected to be a citizen of this class and the school community. Preparation and engagement are essential. In this class you are expected to listen, speak, and act with integrity. You are also expected to honor all individuals in this classroom. Every voice matters and deserves to be treated with respect.

By the end of the 2023-24 school year students will perform and achieve North Dakota English/Language Arts standards at a proficient level, as defined by the state of North Dakota and West Fargo High School.

- [Quarter 1 Essential Skills](#)

Scope and Sequence:

Novel studies: *The Things They Carry*, *The Crucible*, *The Great Gatsby*

Literature circles

Presentations

Informative and persuasive research writing

This plan is tentative and subject to change. For the most up-to-date plan, check Schoology or the live course calendar: [English III Calendar \(live link—this will be updated throughout the year\)](#)

Grading Scale

A = 90-100 (Distinguished)
B = 80-89 (Proficient)
C = 70-79 (Emerging)
D = 60-69 (Underdeveloped)
F = Below 60 (Incomplete)

Basis for Grade:

- Daily participation in class (informal)
- Daily tasks (formal)
- Major writing assignments (formal)
- Analytical and Reflective Discussions (formal)
- Projects (formal)
- Presentations (formal)

Make Up, Late, and Missing Work

Be ready to turn in assignments on time (use Schoology and my posted lesson plans to help with this!)

- Life happens. If you have an extenuating circumstance, communicate with me. I'm human too!
- Students are expected to complete ALL assignments
- **LATE WORK: If you are unable to finish an assignment on time, you MUST email your teacher (using template provided on Schoology or down below) BEFORE the due date.**
 - [Late Work Email Template](#)
- Late work will be entered as a "0" until handed in; All late work is due by the end of the unit; any late work for a unit turned in after the unit has been completed will not be given credit.
- For extended absences, students should fill out a gold upcoming absence sheet to communicate absence get any work that will be missed.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in high school extracurricular activities, learners cannot be failing more than one course and must have zero detention hours. My goal is always to keep grades updated on a weekly basis. Larger projects may take me longer to grade—please keep due dates and grading time in mind when eligibility is of concern to you.

In-Class Expectations

- Always bring to class: your iPad/charger/crayon and any Course-issued books
- Lesson plans, Powerpoints, due dates, and assignment submission drop-boxes will be available on Schoology.
- This class will follow all guidelines and policies laid out by West Fargo High School / WFPS, including policies for food and drink, cellphones, and attendance:
 - **WFHS Food and Drink Policy:**
 - No food in hallways: this includes breakfasts and all lunches (purchased from school, brought from home, fast food, take-out, etc.)
 - Food in classrooms must be provided by teacher(s)
 - All drinks must be in a container with non-spill lid
 - Food or drinks NOT in a non-spill lid will be directed to be thrown away
 - **WFHS Cellphone Policy:**
 - Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Electronic devices are inclusive of cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and school-issued devices.
 - Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the first bell to the last bell of all classes, including during study halls and within flexed learning spaces that are an extension of a classroom.
 - Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence.
 - Failure to comply with the cellphone policy will result in your phone being confiscated and turned into the office.
 - For additional info, see the full policy in the student handbook, or listed at the end of the syllabus.
 - **WFHS Attendance Policy:**
 - It is expected that you are in class and on time each day. If you arrive to class after the designated start time for class, you will be marked tardy. Excessive tardiness to a class period (20 minutes) will result in a UV for the class period.
 - Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence and the student will be assigned one hour of detention. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy.
 - For additional info, see the full policy in the student handbook.

Course/Instructor Expectations

This is your education, your class. I have the privilege and responsibility of guiding you through this curriculum, however, you must take ownership of your learning. Here are a few ways to start you on that path:

- Show up. Show up for yourself by doing all the reading, coming prepared to class, and doing all the work. Show up others by offering support and encouragement to your classmates.
- Take risks. Be willing to go for it even if you might fall flat on your face. That's courage. And that's how you learn.
- Listen to others carefully. Share your ideas. Rumble. Learning takes a community; it isn't always a solo endeavor.
- Be your own advocate. Ask questions. Communicate absences and needs in advance. Take ownership of your learning.

Communication

I will be checking my email/Schoology messages during the school day (between 8:00 – 4:00). Emails received after school, over the weekend and/or holidays will not be responded to until the school week resumes. Email is the preferred and easiest mode of communication.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

The English department recognizes a difference between intentional cheating and accidental plagiarism. Our common definition includes:

- Cheating is the intentional use of someone else's work being presented as one's own work (i.e. submitting another student's essay).

- Accidental plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own (i.e. forgetting a works cited page; not attributing a quotation to the author; not understanding the correct method of paraphrasing a quotation).

The cheating policy follows the WFHS student handbook. *Consequences include a zero for the assignment, a SWIS referral, and notification of the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor.* Should accidental plagiarism occur, the critical and/or common assessment will be returned to the student for resubmission.

For more information, see the full [Cheating and Plagiarism policy](#).

A note on ChatGPT/AI writing/ etc.: AI (artificial intelligence) is an evolving and growing space as I type this. I recognize the tools available to us right now will evolve as the school year progresses. And, I fully recognize that it's ridiculous for teachers to believe technology like this won't be available to people in the future. Yes, I was once told that I wouldn't have a calculator in my pocket by my math teachers when I was in middle and high school – and look how true those threats were.

However, and this is the important part here, the students in my classroom still need to understand the why and how behind grammatical structures, spelling, sentence variety, and the myriad of other things real writing does. This happens by doing the work and getting “messy” with writing, drafting, and revising.

Therefore, the use of AI in my courses will be considered cheating and will have the same consequences as listed above.