

# English III Course Outline

## Course Description:

Each level of English instruction includes an intensive study of the dynamics and structure of the English language, including including the essential skills of composition development, writing style, critical reading, writing and analysis, academic vocabulary, grammatical structure and rules, and academic verbal discussion as outlined and in accordance with the California Common Core Standards. English III specifically is a rigorous course in which students will study the development of American thought and the American voice in literature. Students will critically read and evaluate various forms and types of texts including novels, poetry, informational texts and visual texts. As with all of Vanden’s English courses, English III is designed to emphasize independent thought and equip students to be successful members of an increasingly global society and economy.

## Learning Objectives and Essential Assignments:

In order to meet the course objectives and requirements outlined in the California Common Core standards, English III students will be responsible for completing several essential assignments and assessments. Students will:

- Read from the following novel list both in class and independently for homework: The Crucible by Arthur Miller, Huck Finn by Mark Twain, Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey, and The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
- Read both literary and non-fictional texts spanning the course of American literature, beginning with early American writers through the post-modernist pieces of today
- Complete a weekly analysis of an informational text from modern media
- Have weekly vocabulary, Greek and Latin roots and grammar assessment
- Be assessed for essential learning outcomes attached to each thematic unit via several **formative and summative assessments** throughout each unit
- Engage in independent reading both inside and outside of class

## English Department Grading Policies:

Each English Course at Vanden High School is graded according to the same weighted scale:

<u>Categories:</u>	<u>Grading Scale:</u>
<b>Formative Assessments</b> (Skills Development)	20%
<b>Summative Assessments</b> (Unit Exams)	35%
<b>Self-Study</b> (Homework and Classwork)	30%
<b>Quizzes</b>	15%

## English Department Policies:

The following policies are in place within each of Vanden’s English Courses. Overarchingly, in all English classrooms, students are expected to behave in a manner appropriate for a professional student:

- No late work is accepted (this does not include work due while a student is absent)
- Incomplete work will not be accepted nor assigned credit
- Handwritten work must be in MLA format and submitted using blue or black ink, only
- Typed work must be in MLA format
- Technological problems will not accepted as an excuse for failing to turn in an assignment on-time
- All school rules will be enforced, including policies regarding attendance, dress-code and academic dishonesty

Thank you,

The English III Team:

Mr. Andrew Wren, Mr. Christophe Benoit and Ms. Cindy Porter