

2015-16 Course Syllabus & Class Requirements

English 11: American Literature



Teacher Contact:

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Rooms: 233 (Periods 1 & 2) and 203 (Periods 4 & 5)

The English language is integral to your ability to communicate with those around you. In terms of consistency in grammar rules, it is a mess, but when used artfully, it can be both nuanced and beautiful. It has the ability to manipulate, to enthrall, and to educate. It is one of the most powerful tools in our arsenal, but it does not come cheaply. It is an arduous process of learning and refining, but it has one of the biggest practical payoffs of all subjects. That is why you are here.

Course Description

Welcome back! This year, you will gain a better understanding of the major ideas and movements that have shaped American society and the developmental arc of American literature. Together, we will work to increase your analytical and communication skills and demonstrate critical thinking through individual and group activities. You will refine composition skills (utilizing MLA formatting) and increase confidence in oral presentation. In this course, we will tackle difficult essential questions by exploring a variety of genres through the use of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Students should prepare for varying forms of assessment, including essays, multiple-choice and short answer tests, and both short-term and long-term projects in order to show their progress towards mastery of the material.

School-wide Learning Objectives

Students of San Marcos High School are self-regulated learners that will graduate as empowered individuals with 21st century skills and attitudes to positively contribute to their personal, local, and global communities. In order to do this, throughout their time at SMHS, students will demonstrate growth in their ability to:

- **think critically** and **creatively** in learning and life
- **produce** various forms of **effective communication**
- **productively interact** within **collaborative** environments for **learning** and **problem solving**

Curriculum Texts

Course Textbook: *California Collections: Grade 11*

Some texts will be excerpted. Additional material will also be read during the year including but not limited to supplementary reading texts, independent reading books, and additional nonfiction material.

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Empowering personal growth and honorable contributions of all Knights.

Classroom Policies & Procedures

1. Attendance:

Students are expected to attend school daily, and be on time for class. If a student is absent from class without a valid excuse or leaves class without the teacher's permission, he/she is considered truant.

A student may receive a failing grade for unexcused absences exceeding ten (10) days per semester (SMUSD Board Policy 5113).

Tardy: Students should be in the classroom ready to work when the final bell rings. Period 0-6 tardy students will report to the attendance office for an "admit slip." Habitual tardy students will receive progressive discipline from the Administration Office.

2. Recommended Supplies:

Journal/Notebook – for journals, warm-ups and quick writes (may be stored in my classroom)

Post-It/Sticky Notes – essential for marking the text

Ring binder with dividers

Index cards (3x5 inch)

Writing utensils and paper

3. School Discipline Policy:

At the first behavioral disruption the teacher gives the student a verbal warning and contacts the parent to discuss the behavior. Subsequent behavioral disruptions will result in a referral to the Assistant Principal's Office. The Assistant Principal will then meet with the student, may assign a consequence and mail a copy of the referral to the parent. Continued disruptions may result in the student's withdrawal/fail from the class.

Teacher's Note: This classroom is not only a learning environment, but a safe space as well! Appropriate behavior is expected, which includes respect for teachers, classmates, and classroom property.

3. Grading:

We will engage in a variety of assignments over the course of the school year. Your grade will be determined each marking period using a total points earned/total possible points calculations.

Homework (5-20 points)	Quizzes (10-50 points)
Tests and Essays (75-200 points)	Journals (Varying point values)
Projects (50-100 points)	Participation (Varying point values)

Grades are posted regularly on Synergy. It is the student's responsibility to stay up to date with grades.

Rewrites: I will allow rewrites on many major writing assignments. You must meet with me for a writing conference and then submit your rewrite along with your previous essay and drafts after the essay is handed back. Unless your rewrite requires you to perform a complete overhaul, you will highlight any changes made to your document in the final draft you hand in.

*****Late and/or plagiarized essays ARE NOT applicable for rewrites*****

Your final grade on the assignment will be determined by taking the average of the original score and the rewrite score.

Late Work: All assignments must be submitted on time. This means that the assignment is handed in on the due date prior to, or at the beginning of the class period. The grade(s) on work submitted late for *any* reason will receive point deductions.

- 1 whole letter grade for each school day (**An essay that would receive a perfect score of 20/20 may only receive a maximum score of 18/20 if it is handed in a day late**)
- Except for extreme individual circumstances, I will not accept work that is 3 school days past the due date.
- Assignments or tests missed due to unexcused absence or tardy will receive a zero (0) with no make-up opportunity.
- I will **NOT** accept late homework that is needed for class discussion. You will automatically receive a **ZERO** for those assignments if they are not complete.

5. Academic Honesty

Learning is can be individual and shared, but plagiarism, cheating, and permitting others to cheat significantly stunt the process. Therefore, any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, with or without the author's permission, will result in zero credit and a referral. Students who share their work with others will be subject to the same discipline. All work submitted will represent the original efforts of the individual student.

Honor the Academic Honesty Policy. Penalties for offenses are directly stated in the policy. See your academic planner for more details. [Plagiarism](#) can result in a zero on the assignment and further administrative action.

6. Classroom Behavior:

No food or drink (except water) is allowed. No gum. All electronic devices must remain on silent mode or turned off and stored in your backpack during class unless the teacher specifies otherwise. Unauthorized classroom use of electronic devices is subject to the behavior code.

Keep this syllabus in your binder at all times.

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