

# ENGLISH III – AMERICAN LITERATURE

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Instructor – Ms. Brannon                      Room T2

Please contact Ms. Brannon as needed at [Mbranno1@hisd.org](mailto:Mbranno1@hisd.org) or (713) 847-4809  
KEEP THIS DOCUMENT! YOU WILL NEED IT LATER ON!!!!

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Welcome to English III. The focus for this class will be on academic reading, writing, and discussion: I am preparing you for the SAT, exit-level TAKS, and your college classes. Therefore, there will be a writing intensive component to this class. **BE PREPARED TO WRITE EVERY DAY AND PARTICIPATE IN FREQUENT CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS (BOTH WHOLE AND SMALL GROUP).** Also, be prepared to read on an accelerated level. I expect you to rise (and exceed) these expectations. The fact that you are all here as juniors is a testament to your ability to meet expectations of academic rigor. This class will be no different in that regard than your other English classes here. It will build upon that tradition of excellence and push you even higher. I will provide classroom supports to help us reach our classroom (as well as your personal) goals for this class.

American Literature will examine various texts throughout the semester (see below). For instance, this summer you all read Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. However, during the year we will follow a more non-traditional format – you as a junior class will not be reading the same novels at the same time. All junior students will read all the novels, but based on class period will read them in a different order. This is because we have a class set of all the titles and must share them with one another. Please treat the books kindly as your peers will be using them after you are done.

### **First and Second Semester Titles:**

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *Woman Hollering Creek* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Running with Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs

In addition to these primary texts, we will also be examining short stories, essays, poems, and drama in class by Raymond Carver, Flannery O'Connor, Edgar Allen Poe, Jack Kerouac, and others.

**\*\*\*You will be given a more comprehensive schedule for each six week period that breaks down reading schedules and assignment due dates.**

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### Supplies:

1. 2" Binder, with three dividers
  2. College ruled notebook paper
  3. Pens (at least two) If you need to borrow one, you may, but if this becomes habit, **YOU WILL LOSE POINTS OFF YOUR GRADE.**
  4. Highlighters (at least 2)
  5. Post-it notes (two packs)
  6. A pack of colored pencils (12 count)
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## CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

### Lateness

1. For instruction to take place, you must **BE IN CLASS ON TIME EVERY DAY**. For every three unexcused tardies, you will receive an unexcused absence. This is school and district policy. Please make sure you have a pass from the office if you come late.
2. If you arrive late to class, you must sign the Late Book at the door. Print your name, date, and time of your arrival, as well as the reason for your tardiness legibly in the book (even if you have a pass). This is to make sure Ms. Brannon correctly records attendance every day.
3. Proceed to your seat and join the class in our work immediately.
4. The consequences for tardiness will be the same consequences for failure to follow any and all class rules and are listed below.

### Restroom Usage

1. Restroom usage is for emergencies only. As per school policy, students should find time between classes to use the facilities.

### Absence

1. When you return from school after an absence, you must bring a note from home and take it to the front office. Legitimate absences include sickness, court order, the death of a family member or friend, or a doctor's or dentist's appointment.
2. It is YOUR responsibility to speak with Ms. Brannon about making up all missed work. **This may be done only in the morning before school or during Ms. Brannon's tutorial hours.** Additionally, you **MUST** schedule a make-up appointment within one day of your return to class during Ms. Brannon's tutorial hours (the number of coach classes will depend on the number of days missed). *Failure to do so will result in zeros for the work you missed.*
3. The work we do in English III is extremely important, and any unexcused absences will seriously threaten your progress in this class. 3 unexcused absences will **ensure your failure for the term.**

### **Dismissal**

Ms. Brannon dismisses the class. The clock does not. *No one may leave the room until all books and other materials are put away and all required class work is turned in.* The classroom should be left in the condition in which you entered it (if not better condition).

### **Homework / Late Work Policy**

1. Homework will be checked in or turned in at the BEGINNING of the class period, unless Ms. Brannon indicates otherwise. Homework that is not turned in at the beginning of class will not be accepted.
2. You will be EXPECTED to read the assigned novels for homework. If you fall behind, it is YOUR responsibility to talk to Ms. Brannon about strategies to catch up. Tests and quizzes will be given to ensure you are staying on schedule.
3. Late homework assignments will NOT be accepted at *any time* UNLESS you have a note from a parent or guardian to verify your LEGITIMATE absence from class. Major writing assignments and class projects will be accepted late with a 10-point penalty per day. They will not be accepted after 3 school days.
4. Please speak with me if you are having difficulties with the content or format of any class work, projects, homework, deadlines, etc. Extenuating circumstances happen to everyone, so if there is something that is preventing you from understanding something or meeting a deadline, I need to know so we can work out a plan (extenuating circumstances do NOT cover: dates, shopping, **procrastinating**, or any social activity in or out of school).
5. Students may check the status of missing or late work at any time by referring to your period's bin, as well as the missing work calendar, located at the front of the classroom near the door. All missed work policies for Ms. Brannon's classes are in accordance with the school's missing work policy.

### **Food and Drink in the Classroom**

STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO EAT OR DRINK IN THE CLASSROOM AT ANY TIME.

### **Consequences**

#### **Level 1: Verbal Reminder**

Ms. Brannon will remind the individual causing the disturbance of the rule s/he is violating.

#### **Level 2: See Me**

Ms. Brannon will privately conference with the student.

#### **Level 3 and above: Do we really have to get to level three?**

Ms. Brannon will determine, based on the offense, what will come next (be it phone call home, detention, office referral, etc).

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## **GRADING POLICY**

Student grades in Ms. Brannon's class will be will be broken down as follows:

- ❖ Writing Assignments/Projects: 30%
- ❖ Class work/Participation: 20%
- ❖ Tests: 25%
- ❖ Homework: 15%
- ❖ Quizzes: 10%

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## EXTRA CREDIT AND REVISION WORK

No extra credit will be given in this course except in special circumstances as Ms. Brannon feels it is appropriate. If you are concerned about your grade, you may request extra credit work from Ms. Brannon, who will evaluate your request based on your grades, attendance, and behavior in class. In order to be considered a candidate for extra credit, you **MUST** come to a tutorial to discuss your options. **A student who is failing because he or she has chosen not to complete the work assigned, who has been chronically late, or who has not been attending class WILL NOT, under any circumstances, receive extra credit work due to his or her own negligence.**

A student who has earned a failing grade on a major writing assignment, project, or test may choose to revise the work or retake the test in order to improve his or her grade. This revision or retake must be completed within four days of the date that the graded assignment is handed back to the student. At no time, however, may a student who did not initially submit an assignment “revise” their zero grade for a passing score.

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## TUTORIALS

Ms. Brannon will be available for tutorials to provide students with additional help or to assist them in making up work that was missed during an excused absence. Additionally, if a student’s grade at progress report/report card time is a C or below, there will be **MANDATORY** tutorial hours. The number of tutorial hours per week will be determined by the grade, Ms. Brannon, and the student. Failure to consistently turn in homework may also result in **MANDATORY** tutorial hours. The specific dates and times will be presented to students within the first two weeks of school. Please feel free to talk to Ms. Brannon about anything that was covered in class or that is unclear to you.

# Student Acknowledgment Form

## East Early College High School

**Student:**

I understand the system of rules and procedures that will prompt and guide my behavior in Ms. Brannon's classroom this year. Furthermore, I agree to the consequences outlined above should I choose not to follow the rules and procedures. My signature below signifies that I will work with my parents and with Ms. Brannon to achieve my full potential.

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Signature

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Date