

Honors English III
2016-2017 Course Policies / S. Hanson
<http://teacher.haywood.k12.nc.us/englishiii/honors-english-iii/>

“No story has power, nor will it last, unless we feel in ourselves that it is true and true of us.”

--*East of Eden*, John Steinbeck

The Class

This class is all about improving your ability to read, think, and write about complex material. We will read and talk to strengthen our ideas so that we can write academic papers that are perceptive and engaging and written with clarity and grace.

Most students find this difficult. If you happen to be one of those, do not worry. It is supposed to be difficult. To succeed in this class do this:

- 1) read the material carefully
- 2) think about it
- 3) speak up in class about it
- 4) remember that writing is a process - plan, draft, write, revise, and repeat

There is also a bit of poetry. Life is better with the right words.

The Literature

In addition to various non-fiction selections, we will cover a mix of poetry and prose this year, with an emphasis on analysis of American literature.

We have several long works available to choose from this year, including the novels *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *All the Pretty Horses* and *The Road* both by Cormac McCarthy, as well as a number of plays such as *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, and numerous short stories. What we choose will be in part a result of student interest. At some point in the semester, we will also read a play by Shakespeare, probably *Twelfth Night* or *Othello*.

Finally, our study of poetry will be based in part on the poems you yourselves select. Each one of you will be learning to perform a poem; as I said earlier, life is better with the right words.

Class Policies

Materials Needed

Pen with dark color ink or pencil for hand-written work, a notebook, and paper. Handwritten papers should be turned in on paper that is intact, standard-sized (8.5" x 11"), free of doodles, and with clean edges (no torn out of a spiral notebook mess on one side).

Personal laptop computers may be used in class at particular times. We have a departmental set of chrome books that we will use often.

Typed work should be completed via Google documents and placed in a shared folder which I will create for you.

Papers submitted via Google docs need not be physically printed out. You each have a Haywood County Schools gmail account which is the account you should use with Google documents. Please type all papers in **12 pt.**

Garamond (which uses 27% less ink than Times New Roman—let's be as green as possible!).

Electronic Devices

Cell phones and tablets need to be turned off and placed in the organizer at the front of the classroom when you arrive in the room (not when class begins) and may be picked up as you leave. Unless you have made a compelling argument with me ahead of time why you need to use a particular device for a particular assignment, it must be in the basket.

Food & Drinks

Eating and drinking in class can be disruptive and I'm generally not a fan. However, there may be a good reason to do so (no other opportunity to have breakfast, for example). If you are eating or drinking during class, it must not interfere with your participation in class and must not be disruptive. In addition, sugary drinks, energy drinks, candy, and general vending machine junk food are all prohibited.

Absences

Class begins promptly at the designated time. If not in your seat and ready to go at that time, you will be marked tardy. Three tardies equals a single absence. Six absences per semester is the limit. A seventh, eighth, and ninth absence may be made up in Saturday School. Any absences over nine (or six if missing days have not been made up) results in a failing grade for the class, unless an appeals process is successful.

School-Related Absences

No student will receive permission to miss this class to attend a field trip or other school related event if

- 1) he/she currently has a failing grade, or
- 2) he/she has six or more absences, or
- 3) he/she has large amounts of work not turned in

Please note that only one teacher need deny permission for a student to be unable to attend a field trip.

In & Out of School Suspension (ISS & OSS)

Students are responsible for completing class assignments due while they are in ISS and turning in work according to class due dates.

If work is due on the day a student is in ISS, the student must turn the work into the ISS Coordinator to be sent to Mrs. Hanson that day. Otherwise, students receive a zero for work missed. Work made up during OSS will only receive a maximum grade of 60% (per HCS policy).

Grading

Each of your assignments will be weighted based on its overall significance and then averaged with all other grades. Weights will be:

- 0.5: A minor assignment, something quickly completed.
- 1.0: A standard classroom assignment, a daily grade.
- 2.0: A pop-quiz or short in-class writing assignment
- 3.0: An announced quiz or significant in-class writing assignment.
- 4.0: A test or out-of-class paper.

Late Work

In this class, assignments are all given with notice and plenty of time. For that reason, late work is only accepted within three days of the due date with a penalty of -10 points per day late. If you do have a real problem in your life that you think is worth an extension, please see me ahead of time.

Once, and only once, during the class, you may turn in an assignment on the following school day after it is due without penalty. When you are taking advantage of this, please turn in a sheet of paper with your name on it, indicating that you

are taking your extension. Otherwise, late work will be penalized as indicated above, to a maximum penalty of thirty points. Assignments more than three school days past due may not be made up and will be recorded as a zero.

Paper Corrections

(Almost?) everything in life is a work in progress. For major written assignments, you may turn in a revision of the final graded assignment to potentially bring up your grade. You must turn in the revision within four school days of receiving the graded copy, and the original graded version must be attached. There is a grade cap of 90 for revised papers and the original graded paper must have a grade of D- or better. This is to avoid creating an incentive to turn in very poor work simply to get an extension through the revision process.

Vocabulary

Every field has its own special language, its jargon. Literature is no different. Many of these terms you'll know already, but some will be new. As we go through the works this year, we'll introduce or review many literary terms and definitions, and, occasionally, you'll have quizzes on them. Additionally, you will also have periodic vocabulary assignments based on your own reading as well as weekly vocabulary assignments from *Vocabulary Power Plus for the ACT*. I will take up your *ACT* vocabulary assignments on the last school day of each week (usually Friday), and there will be a quiz each week on that week's word list.

SMART Lunch

Tutorials for this class will be scheduled on Wednesdays during Tutorial A and Thursdays during Tutorial B. The focus of these sessions will depend upon students' needs and what we are studying at the time. Tutorials are intended to provide students additional conferencing and one-on-one time to work on any areas in which a student might need additional guidance. Students may be exempt from tutorial if 1) their grade is an 85 or higher and 2) they have two absences or less. If a student fails to maintain either of the above two requirements, he/she must attend at least one tutorial per class per week.

Communication

A progress report or report card is issued approximately every three weeks. You can check when these should be arriving by calling the school or checking the sign at the school entrance. Progress reports are sent home for parent signature, and students receive a homework grade of 100 in this class for returning the signed reports.

As mentioned previously, students are not allowed to use cell phones in class except when directed for an academic purpose. Please do not text or call your student while he/she is in class.

Both students and parents are encouraged to discuss any questions, confusions, or concerns with me. I am available before school or after school for student meetings. Parent meetings can be arranged through the guidance office or me. Please call 646-3440 to set up an appointment. My planning period is from 1:40-3:00 p.m. Again, I can also be reached via e-mail at shanson@haywood.k12.nc.us.

If you're having trouble . . .

. . . see me in advance. No extensions or other leeway will be given on or after a due date for an assignment. If you are having problems which you think merit my consideration, see me before the assignment is due, not after. My willingness to help erodes significantly after an assignment is due. Remember the old cliché: "A failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part." While there are no guarantees I will check my e-mail in time, you may write to me if you have a question or concern about the class. My e-mail is: shanson@haywood.k12.nc.us

Students, keep this policy sheet in the front of your notebook throughout the semester.

Parents, please read the above policies and sign the next page. Students receive a grade of 100 for returning this policy sheet signed by you. Also, please take a moment to answer the questions to help me get to know your child.

Thank you, and I look forward to an exciting semester!

Shannon Hanson

shanson@haywood.k12.nc.us

<http://teacher.haywood.k12.nc.us/shannonhanson/>

Honors English III
Course Policies

I have read the rules and policies for Honors English III and understand Mrs. Hanson's policies. I have paid special attention to policies regarding absences, make-up work, and contact information.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parents/Guardians: *How should I contact you if the need arises?

Phone # _____ (home/cell/work) _____ (home/cell/work)

Throughout the semester, I will send out an e-mail note to everyone on my list with class news. I'll cover things like what we are doing, what we will be doing, and upcoming papers and tests. In my experience, it is common for parents to not really know what is going on in their child's classes and this is my way of trying to make sure that you do. I'll send updates not more than every two weeks and not less than every month.

If you are interested in being on this e-mail list, include as many e-mails as you'd like included below, and I'll add them to the list.

E-mail address

E-mail owner (optional, but helpful)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What is your child's greatest strength?

What is a talent your child might be able to share with our class?

Is there a topic or interest that fascinates your child or that he/she is an expert on?

Are there any “pet peeves” that upset your child that I can try to avoid?

Is there anything else I should know about your child to help ensure he/she has a successful semester?