

**English III**  
**American Literature and Composition**  
**Course Syllabus**

Teacher: Mr. Patrick Gilligan

Classroom: Room 344

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**Course Overview:**

In the SpringBoard curriculum, you will explore compelling themes through reading, writing, discussions, performances, and research. You will closely read short stories, novels, poems, historical texts, and articles. You'll also view and interpret films, plays, and audio texts while comparing them to their related print versions. With frequent opportunities to write creatively and analytically throughout the program, you will develop fluency, research skills, and an understanding of how to craft your writing based on audience and purpose. Through collaborative discussions, presentations, performances, and debates with your peers, you will deepen your understanding of the texts you've read and viewed and learn how to convey your ideas with clarity and voice.

**Getting to Know Your Teacher:**

**Mr. Patrick Gilligan-** This will be my second year at UCHS and my seventh year teaching in Saint Louis County schools. I graduated from Saint Louis University with a degree in Political Science (I LOVE politics!). I live in "South City" with my wife of five years and two dogs. I'm excited to get to know all of my new students!.

**Classroom Expectations:**

**Respect**

It is important to remember that until we return to our school buildings, our ZOOM and Google classrooms are our professional, learning spaces. Please remember to show respect towards all the students and staff in your words and actions. Your active participation and professionalism is required. This class is full of human beings with different personalities, backgrounds, strengths and weaknesses. It is also full of people who are under pressure to process and produce a lot of material in a short period of time. Being kind and respectful to your teacher and peers alleviates stress and makes everything easier and more pleasurable. It's the least we can do for each other and for ourselves.

**Attendance**

Students will be given links to the classroom of their lead teacher to attend Zoom sessions when our class meets.. Your attendance and participation via Zoom and Google Classroom will be recorded and shared with the district leaders and parents.

## **Preparedness**

Organize materials and use your time wisely. You have to read the texts to learn. Take notes or annotate as you read. Great literature should be read and re-read Listen and take careful notes in class and review, rewrite and reorganize these notes when necessary. Set goals and don't be swayed by those who don't have any. Be prepared to think. Be motivated and responsible. Most importantly, don't give up!

## **Absences and Make-up Work:**

It is the student's responsibility to ask for missing work and to submit it on time. If you know you will be absent, be responsible and ask for work in advance. If you have an excused absence, you have the number of days you are absent plus three more to make up your work. For example: if you were absent five days, you have eight days to make up the assignment, unless the assignment was given in advance. You are expected to check our Google Classroom page first for information regarding assignments missed and handouts needed. Once you have done that, ask a peer for any missing notes and learning targets. Then you may see me for additional information, assistance, and support.

## **Necessary Materials**

Chromebook

Textbook/Anchor Texts (novels when needed)

Writer's Notebook

Pencil/Pen/highlighters (2 colors preferably)

## **Technology Expectations:**

Electronic devices are not to be visible unless I instruct you to take them out for educational purposes. I expect students to be responsible with their electronics, and to not disturb our learning environment with noise. If a student refuses, argues or further disrupts, disciplinary actions will ensue. Repeated violations will result in progressive discipline.

**Cell phones should only be used only as directed for instructional use, in emergency situations, and with the permission of the teacher.**

## **Grading Policies:**

Your grade consists of summative and formative assessments. The summative assessments are 70% of the final grade and the formative assessments are 30% of the final grade.

Summative assessments are assessments *of learning*. Summative assessments measure mastery of a learning target. Formative assessments are assessments *for learning*. Formative assessments guide the teachers and students by measuring the progress being made toward a particular learning target.

See the chart below for a breakdown of the grading policy.

	Close Reading/ Text Annotations	Vocab work	Socratic Seminar	Constructed-Response Writing	Reading Comprehension Quizzes (MC)	Unit Assessment
Formative (30% of grade)	50-100 pts.	10-50 pts.	20-50 pts.	20-50 pts.	50-100 pts.	
Summative (70% of grade)			20-50 pts.	20-50 pts.	50-100 pts.	100 pts.

### **Retake Policy**

If a student does not achieve mastery on a summative Unit Test (80%), it may be retaken one time during the following unit. In order to retake the test a student MUST attend a tutoring or relearning/reteaching session before the retake. The student will earn the higher of the two test scores (up to 80%).

### **Accommodations and Modifications**

To support the participation of children with disabilities, accommodations or modifications will be necessary for accessibility to the reading, writing and speaking curriculum. These accommodations and modifications are individualized and are designed to support each student's academic success.

### **Additional Resources**

#### **Distance Learning Schedule Link**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IE2jBx3-2LwJh7EKtZMEssgAM7mk\\_VSZ0dWeOZW6Bal/edit](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IE2jBx3-2LwJh7EKtZMEssgAM7mk_VSZ0dWeOZW6Bal/edit)

#### **Purdue Owl MLA Writing Format Guide**

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html)