**English 11**

**Instructor: Mrs. Bonatesta**

**Email: kbonatesta@gmail.com**

**Twitter: @MrsBonatesta**



General Course Objectives

In this course, we will study American Literature by theme while focusing on the unique traits of the writing styles of the authors and poets of different literary periods and looking at the historical influences of the periods on the literature. We will use our textbook, Elements of Literature Fifth Course, as our primary source but will also study additional longer works as well. These longer works may include, The Crucible by Arthur Miller, The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, and Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom. In addition to these, you will each choose one additional novel from a provided list that you will read and analyze in your American author research paper.

Daily Required Materials

* **BOOKS**: Bring only the book that is needed for that lesson.
* **THREE-RING BINDER WITH DIVIDERS AND LOOSE-LEAF**: The binder will be split in to sections.
* **PENCILS or PENS**
* **COMPLETED HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT (if applicable)**
* **iPad**: iPads will be used in class everyday for school work. Make sure they are charged.
* While efforts have been made to transition many elements of class onto the iPad, English 11 will still have a paper component. Students are required to have a binder in order to organize and store that paper component. We will also use the hardcover textbook and paperback novels, although some literature will be available digitally.
* Students are expected to take notes in class. Students may choose to take notes on their iPads. Some students may wish to take notes in a more traditional manner, such as in a notebook or on loose-leaf paper. Whichever method students prefer, they are expected to come to class with all necessary materials and be ready to participate.

Units of Study

You earn your grade based upon the quality of your work. The school grading scale will be used (100-90=A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-60=D; 59 and below=F). **NO CURVE WILL BE USED**.

This course consists of several different units:

1. The American Legacy
2. American Relationships
3. The American Dream
4. America into Darkness
5. The Great American Novel
6. American Society
7. American Life Lessons

## Course Binder

You must keep all notes, handouts, and homework in your binder for each nine weeks. I may collect your binder for points once each nine weeks. At the end of each nine weeks period you may remove some materials from your binder if needed, but put them in a safe place as they may be needed for tests, a mid-term, and / or a final exam later in the course. When absent, you must obtain copies of all notes that you missed. Specific binder directions will be provided on a separate direction sheet.

PBIS Classroom Expectations

1. **Be Safe**
   1. **Listen to Staff –** Carefully follow instructions, whether they are given verbally or in writing on an assignment.
   2. **Maintain Personal Space –** Do not touch another student’s body, belongings, desk, or invade his or her personal space without that student’s clear permission.
2. **Respect Others**
   1. **Be on Time –** Being late occasionally is understandable, but regular tardiness will result in a detention or an office referral (specifically, after five tardies)
   2. **Be Polite –** Treat other students and teachers with respect.
   3. **Use Appropriate Language and Tone** – Even if you swear, yell, and insult other people on your own time, that kind of behavior is not tolerated here.
3. **Accountable**
   1. **Be prepared –** Bring all required materials to class.
   2. **Be honest –** Lying will only compound any problem that you may have.
   3. **Do your own work –** Copying another student’s work or taking it from the Internet counts as plagiarism, no matter how small the assignment is. You are not permitted to ‘work together’ on assignments unless I have given you specific permission to do so. If you plagiarize or cheat in any way, you and any other student(s) involved will receive a zero, and there will be no opportunity to make up the assignment. No exceptions.
   4. **Use electronic devices only when permitted –** Cell phones or iPads being used at an inappropriate time may be confiscated.
4. **Victorious**
   1. **Do your best work –** Rushing through an assignment or taking the easiest way to completion demonstrates a poor attitude and will only make future assignments harder.
   2. **Celebrate academic success –** When you’ve earned a good grade, enjoy the outcome of all of that hard work.
5. **Enthusiastic**
   1. **Have a positive attitude –** Everyone has bad days, but if you come into class with a lousy attitude and without a willingness to try, you will most likely have a bad experience.
   2. **Take ownership of learning –** Realize how each unit affects your own development. Are you considering someone’s perspective in a new way? Can you add new layers to your writing? What makes this class yours?

**\*IN ADDITION: My rules are…**

**-work hard**

**-be responsible for yourself**

**-be respectful and kind at all times.\***

Late Work Policy

All assignments must be completed on time. Written homework is given rarely, so it will not be accepted late. Large-scale assignments will be accepted a day late for half credit. If you come to school late, leave early, or attend a field trip, you are in the building and are expected to deliver any work due that day to me **on that day**. You may deliver the work directly to me or take it to the main office where one of the secretaries can place it in my mailbox.

Makeup Work

Making up missed work is YOUR responsibility. If you’re absent, you need to see me about making up missed assignments. Makeup work must be completed in a timely manner. As a general rule, you have the number of days you missed to make up the work. For instance, if you missed two days of school, you have two days to make up the work. If you missed three days, you have three days to make it up.

English Department Academic Integrity Rules

* Accurately cite all sources
* Proofread your work to assure accuracy
* Accurately represent your sources
* Include a list of works cited for all compositions
* Read all assigned readings to assure accuracy
* Do not download a composition from the Internet
* Do not copy another person’s work
* Do not make up quotes that are not in the text you have read
* Do not give your work to others
* Do not write a paper for one course and turn the same paper in for another course

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

* + **1st Offense: Verbal Warning**
  + **2nd Offense: Detention / Phone Call Home**
  + **3rd Offense: Office Referral**

My Contact Information

* The best way to contact me is through email at: kbonatesta@efsd.net
* You can also reach me by calling the school at 412-896-2360. The secretary can direct your call to my voice mail.
* I will use the website “Remind 101” throughout the year to contact both students and parents. It’s a one-way form of communication where I can send a mass text out to anyone who signs up for the class. To sign up, simply text the code for your period to the number 81010. The class code is @KSB11.

Extra Help/Questions

* I am here to help you! I want to see you succeed. Do not hesitate to e-mail me if you have a question. I check my e-mail regularly. If you are struggling, please come see me for extra help. I am available for help before and after school, unless I have another mandatory activity (faculty meeting etc.). The earlier you seek help, the easier it is for me to help you!

*Let’s have a fantastic year learning together! ☺*

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katie Bonatesta

English 11

**Communication Sheet**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I believe communication between a teacher and parents/guardians is very important. I will contact you regarding your child’s academic performance and behavior. I may contact you when your child needs help in a certain area as well as when your child is doing well, so please do not assume a call from me is to tell you “bad” news. If there is something outside of school that is affecting your child (illness, death of a loved one, etc…) that you think I should know about, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Please complete the following information:

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\*E-mail is usually the quickest way for me to communicate with you. Please indicate if you do not check your email regularly.*

You are welcome to contact me by e-mail – kbonatesta@efsd.net or by calling the school at 412-896-2360. The secretary can direct your call to my voice mail.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katie Bonatesta

English 11

Please read the attached syllabus and sign below.

I have read and understand the syllabus and the classroom expectations.

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