

# Springfield Catholic High School

## English II (American Literature) Syllabus

### 2016-2017

Teacher: Mrs. Lawless (formally Ms. Hatfield)

Email: shatfield@scspk12.org

Website:

## Welcome to English II (American Literature)

### Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the historical and analytical significance of American literature. The course is focused on learning to analyze and contextualize the evolution of American culture through literary periods from the colonization era to modern times by exploring the customs and norms of each period as revealed through unique perspectives from a variety of authors. Students will explore multiple genres, including drama, poetry, short stories, novels, and nonfiction texts. As a class, students will learn analytical skills needed to read and comprehend a variety of texts and how to transpose that evidence to support their analysis and reflection in writing. Students will compose a variety of works ranging from creative pieces to research-based academic writing while utilizing the writing process. Students will be expected to complete all assigned coursework by assigned due date, including assigned reading, writing, and homework, in addition to preparation for any quizzes and tests that are given in class. In addition, class participation will be a key component of this class, including both formal and informal group and peer discussions.

### Required Materials (must have specific unit materials you'll be needing each day to receive all participation points):

Textbook (given to each student)

Chromebook (provided by SCHS)

Journal (notebook or composition book)

Folder/ binder (to keep class assignments and resources organized)

Planner/ calendar

Pen/Pencil

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck paperback copy (please purchase as soon as possible- about \$6 on Amazon)

Novels/ other texts (to be announced)- most will be provided by SCHS

### English II Class Expectations:

- The Golden Rule will always be followed—be respectful of your peers and instructor.
- Be seated by the final bell with all required materials; chances are we will always need paper, pencil, and the book/ materials we have been working with, in addition to your Chromebook.
- Work together to foster a collaborative learning environment. This includes completing all assigned reading; students cannot participate if they are unprepared!
- Students will not be allowed to leave (except for emergencies) while teacher is instructing, another student is presenting, or we are working on a class activity—hall passes can only be used during class time in which students are working independently.
- Cell phones are not allowed to be out during class time. If I see it, it will be confiscated and returned upon class dismissal.
- Be creative, have fun, and do your best!

Failure to follow the rules will result in loss of participation points for that day. Repeat offenses will result in a demerit and/or notification of parents.

**\*\* All printed out work (anything that is asked to be brought to class and turned in as a hard copy) is due at the beginning of class on specified due date. All essays/ other electronically submitted assignments should be shared with/ emailed to instructor by 3:00 pm on specified due date, or the assignment will be counted late. \*\***

**Hall Pass Policy:**

Students are not allowed to leave the classroom during any instructional time, including when I am presenting, when another student is presenting, or when students are engaged in a class activity (the only time a student may have permission to leave is during independent work time; my hall pass policy does not apply to emergencies or when a student is called out of the room by another teacher, administrator, etc.). Students will be allotted four all-inclusive hall passes per quarter, so they should choose when to use them wisely. If a student uses all of their assigned hall passes and needs to use another, a tardy will be counted. Students who have unused hall passes remaining at the end of each quarter will be given extra credit points based on how many remaining hall passes the student has.

**Grading Policy:**

30% Writing assignments: students will conduct a variety of writing assignments, ranging from creative pieces to research-based work.

30% Exams/ Quizzes/ Projects

20% Participation/In-Class activities: Participation is determined by student attitude, willingness to contribute to class discussion, and participation during group work.

10% Homework/ All other class assignments

10% Semester Final Exams

It is the responsibility of the student to keep all returned work within a binder (or in their Google account) through the duration of a semester (we will discuss this more in depth). If an assignment does not appear in the grade book or SIS, the student must present the graded copy for the correction to be made. In addition, if a student wishes to turn in revised work, then if possible, the revised draft must be attached to the previously graded draft(s).

Active participation will be a required component of the class. This involves active listening and responding during discussions and other work.

**Paper/ Essay Revision Policy:** As an avid proponent of the writing process, I share the sentiment of many writers that a piece of writing is never truly “done.” We will learn about and utilize the writing process throughout the year on various pieces of writing. With this in mind, you will be allowed, and even encouraged, to revise a piece of writing and turn back into me for an improved grade (you must hold on to any previously graded drafts and attach those to the most current draft, if you decide to revise a piece of your writing). Although it is not a certainty that your grade will improve from the previous draft, this is a strong possibility, especially if you show an active effort was put forth through the revised piece.

**Semester Independent Reading Assignment:**

Each semester, students will be required to select a book from a list that will be made available and read it. Students will then write a book report pertaining to their chosen book (details will be given on book report assignment sheet).

Reports will be due approximately two weeks before grades are due for each semester. I will be sure to let students know definite due dates, and students will continuously be reminded of the pending due date throughout the semester.

**School-related Absences:**

If a student must miss class for a school activity or planned absence, students must turn in assignments due prior to the day they are to miss class in order for the assignment to be on time. In addition, the student is required to obtain any new assignments they will miss prior to leaving the school on day before event (due date will remain consistent; please discuss with me if you do not feel you can meet the due date, and I will try my best to work with you). Students are responsible for getting any notes, worksheets, or other missed work before leaving campus on day before day of missed class. This policy pertains mainly to missed class due to sports, school-sponsored clubs, and field trips. Most assignments and due date information will be posted to the Google classroom website as well; if in doubt, make sure you check the website or email me.

**\*\*I will gladly accept any electronically submitted papers or projects via email on required due date (before 3:00 p.m. on the due date), if student is not able to be present during class time. But, please try to inform me of this in advance, if you know you will be absent on a certain day.\*\***

If a student is absent due to illness or other unplanned absence, it is the students' responsibility to come talk to me as soon as possible to obtain what assignments and class activities were missed, and I will adjust deadlines. Some assignments, notes, and other class materials may be posted on the class website, as well, but student must come talk to me in person as soon as they return to school; you may also email me during the day you miss for illness or other unplanned absence and I will respond as soon as I am able. However, this is not a substitution for speaking with me about what you missed the next day you are back at school. I will hesitate to provide deadline extensions if you do not uphold your end of the responsibility by seeking to speak with me the day you return to school after you have missed class. Please feel free to ask me if you have any questions pertaining to my missed class work/ due date/ late policies.

**As your teacher, I want you to do your best, learn as much as you can, and succeed to your utmost potential. I understand that things happen in our lives that may take precedence over schoolwork. Please come talk with me before or after class if you feel as though you will not be able to make an assignment, essay, or project due date (preferably in sufficient advance of said due date) due to some major life event or other issue. I will do my best to work with you. However, we live in a society where due dates and deadlines are crucial for academic and professional success. Please understand that due dates exist for a reason and will benefit you if you try your best to adhere to them.**

#### **English Department Late Work Policy:**

Writing assignments, homework, and projects that are not turned in on required due date (and in which the student and I have not discussed a due date concern prior to due date) will be penalized 50% of the grade. If I do not receive the assignment (either electronically or via a hard copy), before or during the next time the class meets, then the assignment will not be accepted after this day and the student will receive a zero in the grade book.

#### **Missed class (this information may be redundant—it's that important!):**

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to check with me to find out what you have missed as soon as you are physically able. You may also email me on a day you have missed, and I will email you back in the afternoon once the school day is over with this information. Please err on the side of over communication with myself and all of your instructors; your efforts will not go unnoticed.

**Make-up Tests and Quizzes:** If you are unable to take a test or quiz due to illness or other excused absence, please see me as soon as you return to school to set up a time outside of class to take the said test or quiz.

**Due dates for homework, projects, and papers will always be posted in the classroom, in addition to the class website, and continuous verbal reminders will be given by myself when due dates are approaching. In addition, all students will be strongly recommended to keep a planner where they can write down due dates. Please feel free to email me or talk to me outside of class if you are ever unsure of due dates or regarding any other questions you may have. Asking the right questions is a great tool to succeeding in life.**

#### **Plagiarism Statement:**

Plagiarism is using another's ideas or words and claiming them as one's own work. Any work or research you use within your writing must be properly cited (given credit to the author). We will discuss this and learn about proper research citations throughout this year in order to avoid both intentional and unintentional plagiarism. Knowingly plagiarizing another's work (in addition to if you are found to be cheating on exams and quizzes) will result in a zero in the grade book, in addition to resulting in a demerit, and/or a notification to parents.

**\*\* A fantastic resource for writing and for citing sources: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>\*\***

**Cell Phone Policy:**

Cell phones will not be tolerated in class. If I see a cell phone (or other unpermitted device) out during class, then I will take it and give it back to the student when the bell rings for dismissal. Refer to the student/parent handbook for more details.

**Students and parents: please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions throughout this school year:**

**Email:** [shatfield@scspk12.org](mailto:shatfield@scspk12.org); **Website:** [shatfield-scs.weebly.com](http://shatfield-scs.weebly.com)

Note to students: follow my class procedures and do your best, and you will succeed in English II.  
Thank you, Mrs. Lawless

Students: please have a parent/ guardian read this syllabus, and then both of you fill out the bottom portion and return it to me as soon as possible. This is your first assignment and goes in the grade book. Thank you.

-----Please fill out, tear off, and return to Mrs. Lawless by the end of the second week to receive points----

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Student's name (printed)

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Student's signature

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Date

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Parent or guardian's name (printed)

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Parent/ guardian signature