

# STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Troy Drayton - English III

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### Tutorials

By Student Request

Appointments can be made as needed.

### Course Description

Welcome to English III! We are excited to have you in our classes this year. This course will provide ample opportunities to read and discuss literature, write, research, and develop study strategies. We expect you to study, to ask questions when you do not understand, and to participate in classroom discussions. Standards are high, and expectations are clearly communicated, but it is your responsibility to know and understand those expectations.

### Classroom Expectations

- Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible.
- RESPECT yourself, others and property.
- Create a SAFE classroom for others.
- Contribute to a POSITIVE learning environment.
- Obey all school rules and procedures.

### Supplies

School-Issued Laptop

Appropriate basic classroom materials

- paper/notebook
- Pens/pencils
- highlighters

### Likely Supplementary Novels

(students are encouraged to purchase their own copies of these novels)

\*\*\*Due to updated curriculum planning, this is a list of our previously used novels, so it may change. Please be advised, your student will have about a month's notice with confirmed novel choices if they wish to purchase their novel.

- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

\*\*\* The novels above come from the FBISD approved book list have been thoroughly vetted. Novels that are selected for Self-Selected reading need to be vetted by the student and parent.

## Course Overview

- **1<sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks: Author's Craft: Literary Structures and Analysis**  
Building the Literacy Community  
Reading and Analyzing Fiction and Drama
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks: Author's Craft: Literary Structures and Analysis(continued)**  
Analysis of Informational Texts  
Understanding Rhetorical Power and the Rhetorical Analysis Essay
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks: Author's Craft: Argumentative Structures, Rhetorical Analysis, and Inquiry**  
Investigation and Problem- Solving
- **4<sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks: Analyzing Author's Purpose as an Independent Reader**  
Reading and Writing Work- Related Texts  
College Entrance Essay and Personal Readings

## ABSENCES

Check your school handbook. You have as many days to make-up work as you are absent. It is **YOUR** responsibility to contact your teacher the **first** day you return to see what material, test, quiz and/or homework you missed. If you do not see your teacher, we will assume you are choosing not to make up the work missed, and you will receive a grade of ZERO. **Work assigned before your absence and due during your absence or the day of your return is due when you return.**

## GRADES

Your nine-week grade will be averaged from tests, quizzes, written assignments, homework, and papers. Grades may be taken for class participation. All tests will be announced in advance to allow you time to prepare. Some quizzes will be announced, but some will be unannounced; all quizzes will be timed. It is required that you have three major grades and six daily grades each nine weeks.. The grading scale is as follows:

A= 100-90

B= 89-80

C=79-70

F=69 and below

## CHEATING/ PLAGIARIZING

Cheating will result in a **zero** for that test/quiz/assignment. Austin High School values class and character. Please keep in mind that academic integrity is crucial. Make choices with honesty and integrity and allow yourself time to do your work so you do not have to compromise your integrity. High school is as much about implementing time management with discipline as it is learning about academics. Both are valuable assets to your future success. All work should be done **independently** unless you are told directly, by your teacher, that you may work together.

1. Cheating includes letting others copy your answers on homework, classwork, or any other type of assignment. Notice that there is a difference between supporting another student while doing homework and flat out copying their work. Tutoring others is beneficial, but enabling a student to not learn by allowing them to copy your work is unacceptable.
2. Cheating is using technology in way that is not ethical. This includes but is not limited to messaging answers to your classmates or other English III students, having a browser window open during tests, or using texting or other applications to "collaborate" on homework, and that INCLUDES Chat-GPT or any other AI source, etc.
3. Cheating is sharing test questions/ answers with other classes. Doing this compromises the integrity of the test.
4. Cheating/plagiarizing includes not reading a book and solely depending on Sparknotes or other Internet sources as your means of thinking/analysis.
5. Cheating is taking pictures of other student's work, the teacher's power points, tests, quizzes, and then distributing to others to copy as their own.
6. Cheating is using your phone for answers when it is not permitted.
7. Also, remember that plagiarizing is copying more than three words of a scholar's work and calling it your own. To avoid this, simply cite the source when writing a paper. But in timed writes, and short answers, your answers should be based on your own reading and analysis. Being able to think on your own and having a creative voice in your writing is invaluable.

## **HOMEWORK**

**Assignments are posted in the classroom and online.** Access to the assignments will be through Schoology. The homework assignments listed there do not necessarily represent all assigned homework, but rather all **POSTED** homework. **When absent, please check the postings online; this will help you know what work you missed and the opportunity to work on the assignments and not fall behind in your work.**

## **LATE WORK**

In order to create an expectation of accountability consistent with FBISD's "Profile of a Graduate," we expect students to turn in their work in a timely manner. Students will receive 10 points off the first day, and ten points off days until the assignment becomes a 50. After 5 days, it is up to a teacher's discretion how to proceed to work with the student to complete their assignment for up to a 50.

\*\*\*NOTE: Turning in your work on time ensures you the opportunity to earn an A. However, choosing to turn in your work late earns you a maximum grade of a B.\*\*\*

1. **Extenuating Circumstances:** It is the responsibility of the student to communicate any extenuating circumstances that will impact the completion of their work or their ability to turn it in on time. This includes any absences, illnesses, activities, or technological difficulties that can interfere with completing or submitting assignments on time. As a part of the FBISD Profile of a Graduate, it is the student's responsibility to advocate for themselves and communicate effectively with their teacher or any collaborative peers, so we can all best accommodate students to be successful. This could include assigning an individual assignment if a student is unable to effectively work with others.
2. **Revision assignments:** To best provide timely feedback in the classroom and teach the writing process, if a student does not come to class prepared on the days of peer revision and feedback assignments, the student will not be prepared for class and will not be able to participate in the learning and feedback process. Therefore, they will receive not only a missed opportunity in the learning process, but a reduction in their grade and could receive a zero for the lack of preparedness. Additionally, a student will not be able to document their work and could encourage the use of AI. The student will lose points on the writing assignment according to the late work policy (up to the teacher's discretion) and may be required to do an alternative assignment by hand. Finally, not coming to class prepared for interactive feedback activities may cause a student to disrupt the classroom learning environment, distracting peers from staying on task and doing their work. Any disruptive behavior could result in a discipline referral. Therefore, it is imperative that student's come to class prepared during the writing process and be willing to participate.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

**Cheating and AI:** The use of AI in our classroom is strictly prohibited unless specifically authorized by the teacher. Teachers will use Turnitin.com and other resources to check for originality of student work. Any assignment with over a 20% similarity score (See Similarity Scores document in Schoology) is considered plagiarism whether it is the inability to write in their own voice and avoid assimilating work they find elsewhere or indicates that AI software was used to write the work. An investigation will be conducted to verify that the similarity report is accurate. In addition, in order to prove that student work is authentic, students will be required to keep all their work in a Shared OneDrive folder with me for this class so that any issues that may be considered plagiarized or questionable can be thoroughly investigated to protect you, the student, with date and time stamps of work. Additionally, you will be required to save all work with a title so that you as well as your teacher have clarity on what your assignments are and where to find them.

**Banned Applications & Usage:** ChatGPT and Grammarly amongst other AI tools are not approved applications in FBISD or in the AHS English Dept. Always ask your teacher for acceptable AI usage expectations such as Turnitin Draft Coach, spell check, and the allowed use of CoPilot in various activities. In short, always ask before you assume using outside programs will be acceptable. Additionally, in class cell-phone usage on any assignment will be subject to the cell-phone consequences as outlined by FBISD in addition to the cheating policy.

**Drafting & Writing Assignments:** In order to create a healthy classroom environment for both the student and teacher, handwritten first drafts and/or drafts in Eduphoria or College Board with a lockdown browser will be used to promote critical

thinking skills. Additionally, students will be expected to use MS Word and save all of their work to their district OneDrive to document and time stamp their work electronically as directed by the teacher. It is expected that all students will create an organized system to save their work and name their electronic files. Exceptions to this will be directed by a specific teacher if another platform is needed to complete an assignment. Always follow your teachers directions and use district approved platforms and tools to turn in assignments.

- No PDFs will be accepted of work during the writing process.
- A zero will be entered in Skyward until the work is submitted correctly.

**Cheating/Plagiarism & AI Usage:** If the student is suspected of cheating or using unapproved AI tools to assist academic work, the student will receive a zero pending investigation. Colleges have a zero-tolerance cheating policy, and we are trying to prepare them to be successful in high school and beyond. For a first-time offense, the student will need to conference with their teacher, so they can understand what they are doing wrong and how to fix the problem. If the problem persists, disciplinary procedures will take place. Note: all cheating offenses will be reported to all National Honor Societies which can affect your eligibility status. Cheating is a level 2 disciplinary offense as it violates our code of conduct and can result in both disciplinary and academic consequences.

You are expected to follow the rules and laws of intellectual property and copyrighting and fair usage of information. Teachers created documents are not to be uploaded, shared or disseminated. According to the United States department of STATE office of International Property Enforcement, represents the genius of the world and violating fair usage and intellectual property rights is a federal offense.

## **Retesting**

Students who earn a grade below a 70 on a major grade test (does not apply to quizzes or essays) will have the opportunity for a reassessment. The decision on how to reassess objectives that are retaught is the option of the classroom teacher. However, there must be evidence that reassessment has occurred, and students are only eligible for up to a 75.

## **PAPERS**

To be accepted, all major papers MUST be typed, double-spaced and in 12-point Times New Roman font (adhere to MLA format and style), and uploaded to turnitin.com by the deadline(s) given.

### **Department policy states:**

- All papers (hard copy) must be turned in on the due date stated by the teacher, by the assigned due date.
- If for some reason a student does not turn in their essay during their period, they will have until 2:45 to turn in their paper with no penalty. If the paper is turned in after 2:45 pm, the paper is considered late and 10 points will be deducted for the first day the essay is late and 10 pts off each day after that.
- DO NOT come to class and ask to print your paper on the day it is due. This must be done in advance.

## **Austin High School Communication and Cell Phone Policy**

**Classroom:** All students will silence their cell phones and place them in their backpacks for the entire school day.

**Restrooms:** For restroom breaks during instructional time, the cell phone is to remain in their backpack. Students should not take their cell phone with them to the restroom.

## **TEA & BISCUITS**

- This year, we're going to read.
- Once a week, on most full 5-day weeks, you will be afforded a "Tea and Biscuit" day. This is a day to put our pinkies in the air, be super fancy academics, and enjoy reading. These days will mostly fall on Fridays.
- Whether it's a trip to a lovely library or a book you have at home, be prepared to read! Ask us for recommendations if you need them!
- An important thing to remember: Whether we are whole class reading or independently reading, I expect you to read. Sleeping IS NOT an option.

## **THINGS TO REMEMBER DAILY**

- Be respectful and kind to your classmates and the teacher.
- Keep your area tidy.
- You will show respect for yourself, others and the platforms we use to learn.
- You are responsible for all rules covered in your Student Handbook—Be sure to read it!!
- We will, as a community, set class norms in each individual class. These will be posted to remind us what each community deemed important, but the big two are kindness and respect. So be kind. Be respectful.
- As of now, you are able to eat (non-distracting) snacks during class. This is a PRIVILEGE that can be taken away at any time.
- Talk to us. Communicate. Tell us if you are having a hard week or if you don't understand an assignment. We're here for you. If you don't let us know what's up, we won't be able to help. If you keep an open line of communication, your journey in our classes (and all others!) will be much easier. We can always figure out a plan to get you on track no matter what life has thrown your way.
- Be curious, not judgmental.

## **IMPORTANT LINKS YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

- ✓ Grades, attendance records etc. can be accessed through Skyward.
- ✓ Schoology can be accessed through 1Link: <https://www.fortbendisd.com/1Link>.
- ✓ The link for family access is: <https://www.fortbendisd.com/family-access>. (In order to use this link, you will need to come up to the school and fill out some paperwork.)
- ✓ Download the Schoology and Skyward apps on your phone and turn on notifications for updates.

## **ELA Guidelines & Expectations**

### **Expectations as Part of the Profile of a Graduate:**

In order to equip you with skills for life, our goal is to create effective communicators who can adapt their communication style to the audience, who can prioritize the needs of others while accepting responsibility for themselves and become accountable for their own actions.

1. We will read, watch and discuss a variety of topics in our class this year because we are evaluating how a variety of people from different cultures, creeds, time-periods, backgrounds, and work-fields argue about the world around them through their own expressions. These skills are mandatory skills assigned by the State of Texas through its Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) that we are required to help high school students learn.
2. As a class, we want you to make your own inferences and opinions and share them. We will discuss, read & write about a variety of topics that may be controversial to you. In some cases, you may be exposed to ideas that are contrary to your own beliefs. The goal is to teach you how to communicate in a constructive dialogue using concrete details, various argumentative strategies, and facts, not to change your personal beliefs. In our efforts to help create constructive discourse, we may watch or read a piece of text that could contain potential questionable language, ideas, or material. However, we will teach you how to analyze rhetoric and create your own arguments while exposing you to a variety of ideas from different cultures, creeds, backgrounds, and time periods that will help you learn and understand a variety of perspectives. We are teaching rhetoric. There will be more than one side of every issue/argument. You need to understand each side as well as the issue's historical evolution to be able to evaluate how and why.

***It is your job to inform your teacher of any issues, ideas or language that make you uncomfortable to help us create a safe and trusting classroom environment.***

- You need to be open to other people's ideas.
- If you do not agree with the ideas, then your job is to listen to the other side's argument and understand, explain and argue how they put that argument together.
- You can look for faults in the way arguments are constructed.
- Your job is not to put down the other side. Putting down others repeatedly will result in disciplinary action.
- Your job is to take these new ideas and form your own argument from what you know.

- If you feel strongly about participating in an activity with the topic we are addressing, please tell me ahead of time so we can discuss any concerns. If necessary, we can provide an alternative assignment.