

**Yates High School**  
**English III Syllabus**  
2024-2025

**Instructor:** Ms. K. Collins  
**Classroom:** 249  
**Email:** Kathy.Collins@houstonisd.org  
**Office Hours:** Fridays 1:00-2:30pm

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## **Course Overview**

Welcome to English III! This course will explore significant themes in American literature, focusing on how these themes reflect and shape our society. We will delve into various genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and argumentative writing. You will develop critical thinking skills by analyzing texts, understanding the author's craft, and connecting literature to contemporary issues.

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## **Course Units**

- **Unit 1: The American Dream (August 12 - September 20)**
  - **Key Concepts:** Exploration of the American Dream's origins, evolution, and impact on society.
  - **Genres:** Informational, Literary Nonfiction, Fiction.
  - **Learning Objectives:** Analyze context for nuanced meanings, make personal connections, discuss explicit and implicit meanings.
- **Unit 2: Societal Influences on Belonging and Alienation (September 23 - November 1)**
  - **Key Concepts:** How societal factors shape an individual's sense of belonging or alienation.
  - **Genres:** Poetry, Drama, Argumentative.
  - **Learning Objectives:** Analyze the author's purpose, make inferences, evaluate text structure.
- **Unit 3: Leadership: Influencing Perspectives and Shaping Visions (November 4 - December 20)**
  - **Key Concepts:** The role of leadership in shaping visions and influencing others.
  - **Genres:** Argumentative, Informational, Literary Nonfiction.
  - **Learning Objectives:** Analyze rhetorical devices, summarize key ideas, compare texts across genres.
- **Unit 4: Diverse Experiences and Shared Humanity (January 7 - March 8)**

- **Key Concepts:** Exploring diverse human experiences and recognizing commonalities.
  - **Genres:** Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry.
  - **Learning Objectives:** Analyze language choices, make connections, evaluate text structure.
  - **Unit 5: American Voices: Expression Through Literature (March 18 - May 31)**
    - **Key Concepts:** Understanding the varied voices in American literature and their contributions to our culture.
    - **Genres:** Fiction, Nonfiction, Drama.
    - **Learning Objectives:** Evaluate literary devices, analyze character motivations, discuss the author's purpose.
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## Grading and Expectations

- **Participation:** Full participation in every class is required. Participation includes engaging in discussions, group activities, and contributing to class.
  - **Assignments:** Assignments are due at the end of each class period. Late assignments are accepted with a penalty up to three days after the due date.
  - **Assessments:** Each unit will have a major assessment, such as an essay, project, or exam. Mastery is demonstrated by achieving at least 80% accuracy.
  - **Classroom Culture:** My classroom is one of rigor, differentiation, and support. I aim to create a loving, respectful environment where all students feel valued and capable of success.
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## Classroom Policies

- **Attendance:** Students must contact me or have a parent contact me via email if absent. Make-up work should be completed promptly.
  - **Cell Phones:** Cell phones are prohibited during class time and must be stored in backpacks or a designated area.
  - **Eating in Class:** Eating is not allowed during class to maintain focus and cleanliness.
  - **Language:** Respectful language is expected at all times; profanity will not be tolerated.
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## Communication

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I am here to support your learning and am looking forward to a successful year together.