



HONORS ENGLISH 11

2025-2026

Teacher Name: Mrs. Elizabeth Cairns

Teacher E-mail: eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Course Description:

This course emphasizes the development and use of critical thinking skills through in-depth analysis of various works of American Literature. The class will include opportunities to improve your communication skills through writing and reading, as well as vocabulary and grammar enrichment.

Course Objectives:

- *To read and understand a wide range of materials with a focus on American Literature
 - *To develop critical thinking skills when listening, reading, speaking, and writing
 - *To further develop the writing process: organizing, writing, revising, and referencing
 - *To improve and demonstrate proper use of English grammar, especially ACT grammar
 - *To enhance vocabulary
 - *To improve communication skills through class discussions, group activities, and research projects
 - * To meet objectives for ELA 11 as set forth by the Alabama Course of Study and Madison City Schools
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Classroom Expectations:

You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and productive manner. In addition to all the rules and expectations listed in the student handbook, I expect you to have a positive attitude, treat others with respect, practice self-discipline, and demonstrate responsibility.

Classroom management process includes: verbal reprimand, conference with student with parent contact, withdrawal of privilege(s) with parent contact, and other consequences determined to be reasonable and appropriate by the school administration.

Cell Phone Expectations

ALL electronic devices are prohibited to be used during the instructional day. This is from 8:12-3:28. This includes: cell phones, smart watches, earbuds/ headphones/ airpods, tablets, and personal computers (school issues laptops will be allowed). Discipline will be given to ANY student who uses an electronic device. If you bring your device to school, it **MUST** be placed in your bookbag. It cannot be on your person.

Tardy Policy

Students late to ANY class, without a pass, will report to a tardy scanning station. You will input your identification number on the pin pad. A tardy slip will be printed for you to report to class. Parent email will be sent for every tardy. Discipline will be as follows: 3 total tardies will result in 1 day of ISS; 6 total tardies will result in 2 days of ISS. Progressive discipline to follow.

Grading Policy:

Grades are based on a 100 point scale. We have two types of grades: daily grades (30% of final grade) and tests (70% of final grade). The percentage based grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as class work can be made up and graded for excused absences only.

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind are never tolerated. The academic misconduct policy of the school will be followed in this course. All sources should be credited, including any use of AI (artificial intelligence.)



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Exam Exemption Policy:

Any student in grades 9-12 are eligible to earn an exam exemption for the 2025-2026 Exams for each class IF they have earned an 85% or higher as the final grade for that course. Any of the following will EXCLUDE a student from exempting for that class:

- More than five EXCUSED absences
- Any UNEXCUSED absence
- In School Suspension (ISS) for 3 days or more
- Out of School Suspension (OSS)
- One or more days of Alternative School placement
- Not participating in the state standardized assessment for their grade level (10th PreACT, 11th ACT with Writing, 12th WorkKeys, and AP exams)

Attendance and full participation in reviews and assignments for the class leading up to the day of the final exam are required.

Make-up Work Policy:

Make-up tests will only be given to a student who has an excused absence. The student must make arrangements with the teacher to take a make-up test. Tests may be taken during Patriot Path with prior arrangement from each teacher. A student only has two chances (the next two Patriot Paths after the absence) to make up a test. All make-up tests will be administered in the designated classroom on the Patriot Path session roster.

Homework/Classwork: Students who are absent for excused reasons will be permitted to make up missed work. It is the student's responsibility to get their work assignments the day upon return to school and complete the assignments according to a time frame determined by the teacher within two weeks of the date of the last absence. Grades of zero will be assigned for assignments missed because of unexcused absences.

Late work creates a backlog for you and your teacher. Work not turned in on time will receive a grade of zero until completed. Daily assignments that are turned in after the work has been checked by the teacher may receive no higher than 50%. Late tests/grades may not receive higher than 75%. Exceptions may be made at the teacher's discretion, especially for extenuating circumstances. Please communicate with your teacher.

Text and Other Required Reading:

StudySync, Reading & Writing Companion, Volumes I and II, Grade 11 (textbook)

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

A Raisin in The Sun by Lorraine Hansberry; other American dramas

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald; *The Great Gatsby Graphic Novel*

Contemporary novel choices for literature circles, TBD

Selections of poetry, short stories, and non-fiction works, as well as multimedia texts.

Class and online copies are available for most texts.



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***Materials and
Supplies Needed:***

Please bring daily:

1. Pencils/pens and notebook paper
 2. 1" binder or two-pocket folder for notes and handouts/printouts
 3. 3-4 different color highlighters, e.g. yellow, green, blue, orange, pink
 4. Library book or personal book to read when/if finished with daily work
 5. Your school issued Chromebook—charged
 6. Optional: composition or wire bound notebook for daily bellwork
- **Access to a computer and an internet connection at home is necessary from time to time. If you do not have these materials, please communicate with me.**

Teacher Wish List: If possible, the following items would be appreciated in maintaining a clean and engaging environment for students: hand sanitizer, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, paper towels, Lysol or Clorox disinfecting spray, post-it notes, notebook paper, highlighters, pencils and/or pens as well as any other donations fit for an English classroom.

Assignments:

1. Daily Assignments/Bell Work (including journaling, note-taking, grammar lessons, and vocabulary exercises)
2. Writing: paragraphs, essays, research paper, projects
3. Novel and literary unit projects/tests/quizzes
4. Literature and Vocabulary quizzes
5. Grammar assignments online/quizzes; ACT grammar

Laptops

Concerning laptop utilization: 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

18 – WEEK PLAN *This is a tentative plan and may change at the discretion of the teacher.	
Weeks 1-4	Unit 1: Introduction to the class—expectations and the American Dream in various genres; <i>Of Mice and Men</i> ; intro to vocabulary, literary terms, annotation, CDC paragraphs, themes, narrative writing, literary analysis essay
Weeks 5-7	Unit 2: The Colonial period and American Drama: <i>The Crucible</i> ; personal connections and CDC paragraphs; Reader's Theater, Socratic Seminar; ACT grammar
Weeks 8-9	Unit 3: Choice Novels or Plays in literature circles; titles to be determined; if time allows
Weeks 10-12	Unit 4: Justice in the Abolitionist movement, the Civil Rights Movement and today; Frederick Douglass, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail;" <i>Just Mercy</i> , TedTalks Current Issue Research Project
Week 13	Unit 5: Short stories: Poe, "A Rose for Emily," and other selected stories, literary analysis; nonfiction texts
Weeks 14-15	Unit 6: Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance; other short poetry; figurative language; <i>A Raisin In the Sun</i>
Weeks 16-18	Unit 7: American Dream <i>The Great Gatsby</i> , The Jazz Age/Roaring 20's; review of themes; exam preparation



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Mrs. Cairns English 11 Parent/Guardian & Student Contract

Please initial/sign below in ink:

_____ **We have read the syllabus** for Mrs. Cairns' Honors English 11 course and understand the expectations for the course and classroom policies.

_____ We understand that Mrs. Cairns will contact us about any concerns or classroom information via the information supplied on this page.

_____ We understand that phones should be on silent and be put away during class.

_____ **Plagiarism Statement:** We understand that the downloading of material in part or whole, cutting and pasting sections from online sources or copying material from other sources (to include other students) **WITHOUT giving credit to the source by citing it properly, is considered plagiarism** and will result in ZERO for the assignment and teacher communication with parents and administration. Students will be given opportunities to check their work before submitting it. All outside sources must be credited, including the use of AI (artificial intelligence.)

PLEASE NOTE: AI may be used as a tool but not in place of skills students are to be mastering in the classroom. Student's work should demonstrate their own thinking and ability. Suspected use of AI will receive a grade of zero until the student and teacher have a conversation.

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the syllabus.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Parent/guardian, please provide two ways for me to contact you (email address, phone numbers):

Parent/guardian Email:

Parent/Guardian Phone number:

*Please feel free to email me with any questions, concerns, or anything you would like me to know about your child at eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us