

Course Objectives

English 11

Mr. Ross

The three primary objectives of English 11 Regents are:

- A. The study of American Literature
 - major writers and works
 - character types and themes
 - as a reflection of American Society and identity
 - influence upon American society and identity
- B. Contemporary Media Research
 - Reinforce thematic concepts of literature through media examples
 - Note-taking, note-card, and outline instruction & practice
 - Oral presentation instruction and practice
- C. The New York State Comprehensive Examination in English
 - Listening, Analytical and Literary Response Skills
 - Critical Thinking
 - Purposefully focused, logically organized, thoughtfully developed writing

This course boils down to two essential activities:

READING and WRITING!

Students should expect to consistently and rigorously engage in both activities.

As a class, we will read at least one full-length work each marking period in addition to frequent short stories, essays, poems, and news articles. Students are encouraged to independently read full-length American novels. Such initiative will be rewarded with significant extra credit. We will do our best to adhere to the following major units schedule:

M.P. #1: *The Crucible*

M.P. #2: *Ragged Dick*

M.P. #3: *Of Mice and Men*

M.P. #4: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Transcendentalism – Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman & Frost

Challenging writing assignments requiring insightful responses will result from our study of literature. Insufficient understanding of the specific structure and understanding of these assignments will guarantee a frustrating writing process and a poor quality product. As a teacher, I will do my best to make these parameters clear, however, students must take ultimate responsibility. Whenever possible, I will scaffold these challenging writing prompts through objective and short-answer assessments that demonstrate specific textual evidence. I am available for extra help, so lack of understanding of the assignment is not an acceptable excuse for substandard, late or missing assignments.

Effective writing entails the successful application of language as expression of ideas. Therefore, in order to ensure our writing accurately represents our ideas, we must MASTER our language. We will enhance our mastery of English through extensive study of grammar, style, punctuation, vocabulary, and literary and writing techniques.

Writing assignments will be supplemented with more conventional tests, quizzes, journal responses, research tasks, oral presentations, and class participation grades.

Each marking period, we will also have one week dedicated to independent reading. Students will choose any full-length narrative work that Mr. Ross approves as relevant to the Critical Lens section of the Regents Exam and/or the major themes of the course. Students will keep reading journals and participate in reading conferences with Mr. Ross throughout these weeks.

Our Final Exam will consist of a highly focused research paper on a significant contemporary issue of particular relevance to your generation AND a series of short reflections on English 11's major literary units and their value/relevance to you as a learner.

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We will take the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English in January. This is a rigorous assessment administered over two days. It consists of four significant essays, each designed to demonstrate an essential language arts skill. Since a passing grade on the English Regents exam is a requirement for graduation, we will expend extensive time and effort preparing for the demands of that exam during this course. Students will be expected to learn, practice and make application of:

- Listening and writing for information and understanding purpose, key ideas, significant details, etc.
- Reading and writing for information and understanding comprehension, salient information, vocabulary, interpretation, application, synthesis, etc.
- Reading and writing for literary response comparison/contrast, key ideas, vocabulary, interpretation, analysis, application, etc.
- Reading and writing for critical analysis written response using course literature in response to thematic prompt