

# Naples American High School

## Course Syllabus

Course Name:	ELA 11	<b>Course Description</b> <a href="#">DoDEA Course Description Web Site</a>
Textbook:	The Language of Literature The Elements of Writing	
Teacher Name:	Mr. A	
Phone Number:	629-4516	
Planning Periods:	5 & 6	
Location:	Room 203	

### **Philosophy**

This class will address student needs in the areas of critical reading, critical thinking, and critical writing. We will also work toward improving students' basic composition skills via writing activities, in-class and at-the-board DLS work, and selected short units from our writing text. A selective chronological survey of American literature serves as our springboard for talking about and trying to understand American history and culture.

### **Material**

Students are provided with texts and with novels and plays for group discussion. However, the students are responsible for bringing these materials to class daily, as well as for having writing materials and previous notes and hand-outs.

Books for the once-a-quarter book reports must meet certain guidelines but are usually self-selected.

### **Grading Policy**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

### **Assessment**

Individual assignments receive individual grades, and these are entered into the school's electronic gradebook program. Grades for a particular assignment may be curved, which allows me to flex the assessment when a class performs below expectations. If a student is involved in an extra-credit group presentation, this may result in receiving a group grade, rather than an individual one.

Once entered, the grades are weighted in one of three "bins": daily work @ 40%, presentations and quizzes @ 30%, and unit tests and compositions @ 30%.

Each month, the student can receive an extra-credit 100% in the daily work bin if s/he returns a signed progress report for ELA 11.

### **Homework**

Homework most often takes the form of reading for comprehension and discussion. Students who prepare for class discussion by reading the assigned material greatly add to the depth with which we can process our literary selections. Text selections usually involve doing the vocabulary activity at the end of the reading. [Did you know that in American society there is a proven direct correlation between an individual's vocabulary level and her or his income level?]

Writing activities for a grade: Out-of-class compositions are usually lengthy and span weeks, so students need to get started on them right away and get them in on time. I encourage students to submit major compositions a week ahead of time, as this allows me to read, respond, assess, and return the paper early enough for the student to be able to revise and re-submit by the deadline and earn a higher grade. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's progress on these major compositions and to read the final draft before it is handed in.

Plagiarism is not tolerated, and the best way to avoid this problem is to start early on the writing task and hand it in early, as well.

Please note that if a student hands in a book report, for example, the week before it is due, I am usually able to evaluate the paper and return it so that the student has time to revise the paper and still hand it in by the due date; this always results in a higher grade.

### **Late Work Policy**

Work is always due no later than the assigned due date.

"Missing work" receives a rating of zero% until handed in; this really hurts the grade average for that bin. If the student has an excused absence, then full credit is possible once the activity is completed.

"Late work" is always accepted, but this earns a maximum grade of 55%.

### **Tutoring/Extra Help**

This requires advance arrangement, involving the student and the teacher. Seminar passes are generally available but must be requested before the seminar period begins, as per school policy.

### **Classroom Management**

Students are expected to come to class on time with all materials needed for success in this course.

Students are assigned a seat, and this is where they should be unless re-grouped for an activity; assigned seats will change, but the teacher makes the changes.

The school handbook for students and parents discusses both desired and inappropriate behaviors and spells out the consequences for problem behaviors.

### **Content Outline**

This is provided on a separate sheet on a unit or quarterly basis. The unit syllabi and the assignment sheets for essays and book reports will be given to the students in hard copy form and also eMailed to the parental address provided to the school and listed on our directory.

<b>Additional Information</b>
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. We will be using Daily Language Skillbuilders to increase all students' proofreading and grammar/usage/mechanics skills, as recent Terra Nova testing indicates that this is the "Language" area of lowest performance for most students. Parents and students should be referring to the standardized test results periodically, I feel, as I do use them to plan instructional units.</li><li>2. Please make sure that the school has an accurate eMail address for your family, as this is becoming the most efficient way to communicate with parents. Please feel free to send me a short message just to make contact and confirm that we are able to get in touch with one another via the internet.</li></ol> |
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<b>Standards</b>
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<a href="#"><u>DoDEA Curricular Standards Web Site</u></a>
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