

English 11 Distance Learning Week 1

Welcome to the first week of our COVID distance learning experience! I know that this is not how any of us planned to end the year, and it is very easy to become discouraged in times of uncertainty like we are in right now. However, we should not let our current situation break our spirits. It is often through difficulty that we learn and grow to become stronger, wiser, and more content with life. Swords are only sharpened when they grind against the stone and diamonds cannot shine until the rough cracks are struck and chipped away by the violent hammer and chisel.

For me, I am excited to use this time to develop a new skill set that will help me to become a better teacher in the future. In light of this, I am dedicated to making this experience positive and productive for all of you! That being said, I will admit that I have never done this before. It is possible that the things I plan now need to change based on your needs. If we work together, however, we can make this time of distance learning fulfilling, interesting, and engaging!

| Availability and Scheduling | Distance Learning Platforms |
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| <p>You will probably have questions or concerns while we are in our distance learning model. If you need to contact me, here is how to do it:</p> <p>Standard office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:00pm I am most readily available during these hours. I will be responding to all forms of communication, including email and Remind101, and will be available to schedule individual Zoom calls.</p> <p>Off hours: You can still contact me during off hours through Remind101, but I might not be able to respond quickly. I will not be reading emails or hosting Zoom meetings outside of my scheduled office hours.</p> <p>Zoom: I am planning on hosting weekly Zoom sessions. These sessions are optional and will focus on clarification and answering questions. <u>Please email me if you would like to join the session!</u></p> <p>Wednesdays: 5th period: 11:00 AM 7th-8th Period: 1:00 PM Thursdays: 1st-4th Periods: 1:00 PM</p> | <p>For most of us, the next few weeks will involve lots of time on a digital device. If you have access to technology, the following is a list of programs I will use for my class.</p> <p>If you have no access to technology, there will be low-tech packets for printing on my welcome page. You can complete these and return them to Heritage High for grading.</p> <p>Turnitin.com: Most of your assignments will be turned in to Turnitin.com. You have used this program all year, but if you have any questions about how to use it or sign up for my class, please let me know.</p> <p>Turnitin.com Discussion Board: We will also use a discussion board through Turnitin.com. I try to make my class collaborative and discussion based, and this should help maintain that atmosphere. I will post instructions on how to access this on my website.</p> <p>PDF Forms: The work that I give you will come as an interactive PDF form. This means that you will be able to type directly into the worksheet without needing to print it out. Let me know if you have any issues in completing these assignments.</p> <p>Google Forms: I am not planning on using this much, but it is a quick way for me to get information. All you need to do it will out the form and it will give me the information I need.</p> <p>Zoom: This is a video conferencing program that will allow us to talk to each other as a group. We can have up to 100 people at a time in a session, but I have more than 200 students! Because of this, I have divided my scheduled Zoom sessions by class period. Please review the schedule and email me if you would like an invitation!</p> |

Unit Overview

In this unit, we will be reading *The Great Gatsby*. While we read this, we will discuss how Fitzgerald uses figurative language to control the mood and set the tone of settings, characters, and events in the book. We will also discuss how the major characters develop over the course of the book and how this development has an effect on the story.

Because of the limitations of distance learning, we will not be writing a full essay this quarter. Instead, you will be assigned two shortened writing assignments to take the place of a larger assessment. The first assignment will be assigned the week of April 27th and the second will be assigned the week of June 1st.

Weekly Learning Targets

By the end of the week of April 6th - 10th, I should:

1. Understand how to receive and submit assignments using the distance learning model.
2. Understand the historical context behind *The Great Gatsby* by watching an informative video.
3. Recognize the major settings and characters in *The Great Gatsby* and be able to identify why they are significant.

Assignments

By 10:00 pm Friday April 10th, I should have completed and submitted the following assignments:

1. Mr. Cauley's Form of COVID Preparedness: Let's Get Ready for an Adventure!
 - a. This Google Form will give me valuable information about all of your distance learning situations. Please fill it out at the beginning of the week so that I can adjust my plans accordingly. [Click this link to find the form.](#)
2. The Roaring 20's: Crash Course US History #32
 - a. It just wouldn't be a distance learning experience without watching a Crash Course video! This video will help you to understand the time period and culture in which *The Great Gatsby* was written. [Click this link to watch the video.](#)
 - b. Once you have watched the video, open the 1920's Questions document and answer the questions. It is an interactive PDF, so you should be able to type directly into the document. When you are done, submit it to Turnitin.com. You can find the document [here](#), or download it from my website.
3. *The Great Gatsby* Intro
 - a. Go through the presentation I have created to introduce the major characters and settings from *The Great Gatsby*. Because I don't want you to miss out on the awesomeness that are my lectures, I have embedded recordings explaining each page in greater detail. So, please make sure to listen to the audio! You can find this presentation [here](#) or download it directly from my website.
 - b. When you have gone through the entire presentation, you will be ready to participate in your first discussion board! You can find instructions for accessing the discussion board [here](#) or download them directly to my website.
 - i. The first thing you need to do on the discussion board is to post a question. Consider what you learned about the characters in *The Great Gatsby* and think of a good discussion question or insightful observation about him/her. Find the character's thread on the discussion board and post this question or observation.
 - ii. Once you have done that, you should review what your peers have posted. Find a post that you find interesting and respond to it. A valid response might include:
 1. Agreeing with the post and explaining with what it is you agree.
 2. Clarifying the post and explaining why the post needs clarification.
 3. Disagreeing with the post and explaining with what you disagree.
 - iii. **Please be respectful when using the discussion board. Demeaning, off topic, or offensive posts will be deleted and the poster will receive a failing grade for the assignment.**

