

**English III**  
Ms. Rieckman or Ms. R

**Contact**

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**Office Location & Hours**

Office: 205H during Block 2A/2B or by  
email / Schoology message

**Need extra English help? Stop by**

**205 H during Block 2A/2B, or  
contact me via email/Schoology  
message**

**Course Description & Objectives:**

Students will engage in the learning process and be instructed in all areas of the English Language Arts & Literacy subject matter. This includes but is not limited to elements of fiction and non-fiction works, required steps and skills of the writing process, grammatical studies, poetry, and dramatic production.

As a member of this course, you will be expected to be a citizen of this class and the school community. Preparation and engagement are essential. In this class you are expected to listen, speak, and act with integrity. You are also expected to honor all individuals in this classroom. Every voice matters and deserves to be treated with respect.

By the end of the 2025-26 school year students will perform and achieve North Dakota English/Language Arts standards at a proficient level, as defined by the state of North Dakota and West Fargo High School.

**Scope and Sequence:**

Novel studies: *The Things They Carry*, *The Crucible*, *The Great Gatsby*

Literature circles

Presentations

Informative and persuasive research writing

**This plan is tentative and subject to change. For the most up-to-date plan, check Schoology.**

**Grading Scale**

A = 90-100 (Distinguished)

B = 80-89 (Proficient)

C = 70-79 (Emerging)

D = 60-69 (Underdeveloped)

F = Below 60 (Incomplete)

**Basis for Grade:**

- Daily participation in class
- Daily tasks
- Major writing assignments
- Analytical and Reflective Discussions
- Projects
- Presentations

**Class Work, Make Up, Late, and Missing Work**

Be ready to turn in assignments on time (use Schoology and my posted lesson plans to help with this!)

- Life happens. If you have an extenuating circumstance, communicate with me. I'm human too!
- Students are expected to complete ALL assignments
- In class assignments are expected to be completed within the class period. If you choose to work on assignments for courses instead of in-class assignments, it may result in the outside work being confiscated, or partial / complete loss of credit for the English assignment.
- If more time is needed to complete an assignment (in class, or outside of class), please communicate with Ms. Rieckman as soon as possible. This communication can be in person or email but must occur before the assignment due date/time.
- **LATE WORK:**
  - Daily assignments will be accepted until the end of the quarter. Late work will be entered as a "0" with an orange missing flag until handed in; All late work is due by the end of the unit; any late work for a unit turned in after the unit has been completed will not be given credit. If there is no missing flag, the assignment cannot be made up.
  - Any late work submitted will be updated after current assignments. If you communicate through email that an assignment has been submitted, it will be updated to "collected"; please utilize this expectation if you are affected by eligibility / want the most up-to-date grade information reflected in PowerSchool

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in high school extracurricular activities, learners cannot be failing more than one course and must have zero detention hours. My goal is always to keep grades updated on a weekly basis. Larger projects may take me longer to grade—please keep due dates and grading time in mind when eligibility is of concern to you.

### **In-Class Expectations**

- Always bring to class: your iPad/charger/crayon and any Course-issued books
- Lesson plans, PowerPoints, due dates, and assignment submission drop-boxes will be available on Schoology.
- This class will follow all guidelines and policies laid out by West Fargo High School / WFPS, including policies for food and drink, cellphones, and attendance:
  - **WFHS Food and Drink Policy:**
    - No food in hallways: this includes breakfasts and all lunches (purchased from school, brought from home, fast food, take-out, etc.)
    - Food in classrooms is at teacher discretion; Food is allowed in Rieckman's classroom, but please respect space and clean up after yourself. Food privileges can be revoked.
    - All drinks must be in a container with non-spill lid. Drinks NOT in a non-spill lid will be directed to be thrown away
  - **WFHS Technology Policy:**
    - No cellphones/smart watches from 8:25 a.m. to 3:35 p.m., per the WFHS school policy
    - Failure to comply with the cellphone policy will result in your phone being confiscated and turned into the office.
    - Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence.
    - For additional info, see the full policy in the student handbook.
  - **WFHS Attendance Policy:**
    - It is expected that you are in class and on time each day. If you arrive to class after the designated start time for class, you will be marked tardy. Excessive tardiness to a class period (20 minutes) will result in a UV for the class period.
    - Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence and the student will be assigned one hour of detention. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy.
    - For additional info, see the full policy in the student handbook.

### **Course/Instructor Expectations**

This is your education, your class. I have the privilege and responsibility of guiding you through this curriculum, however, you must take ownership of your learning. Here are a few ways to start you on that path:

- Show up. Show up for yourself by doing all the reading, coming prepared to class, and doing all the work. Show up others by offering support and encouragement to your classmates.
- Take risks. Be willing to go for it even if you might fall flat on your face. That's courage. And that's how you learn.
- Listen to others carefully. Share your ideas. Learning takes a community; it isn't always a solo endeavor.
- Be your own advocate. Ask questions. Communicate absences and needs in advance. Take ownership of your learning.

### **Communication**

I will be checking my email/Schoology messages during the school day (between 8:00 – 4:00). Emails received after school, over the weekend and/or holidays will not be responded to until the school week resumes. Email is the preferred and easiest mode of communication.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism:**

The English department recognizes a difference between intentional cheating and accidental plagiarism. Our common definition includes:

- Cheating is the intentional use of someone else's work being presented as one's own work (i.e. submitting another student's essay).
- Accidental plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own (i.e. forgetting a works cited page; not attributing a quotation to the author; not understanding the correct method of paraphrasing a quotation).

The cheating policy follows the WFHS student handbook. *Consequences include a zero for the assignment, a behavior referral, and notification of the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor.* Should accidental plagiarism occur, the critical and/or common assessment will be returned to the student for resubmission.

AI (artificial intelligence) is an evolving and growing space, however, in this classroom your effort and learning is valued. Artificial Intelligence should not be used to write any portion of writing assignments. Unless an explicit opportunity to utilize AI is provided in class, any use of Artificial Intelligence on assignments is not acceptable and will be considered cheating and will have the same consequences as listed above. Utilizing grammar checking / revision programs (e.g. Grammarly) is acceptable, provided that it does not change the content of your writing, write any portion of your work, or alter your writing with respect to a specific assessment criteria.

**If a student is found to have cheated on an assignment, it is left to the teacher's discretion whether an opportunity to redo the assignment will be provided, or if the assignment will be given a zero.**

For more information, see the full [Cheating and Plagiarism policy](#).