Instructor Information

Will McClure
Phone: (325) 235-4371
Email: william.mcclure@sweetwaterisd.net
Conference Period: 2nd Period 8:49 – 9:34 AM and by appointment (before or after school)

Course Description

Since this is both a high school junior English class and a dual credit English class, it will not only cover the English III TEKS, but also the Common Core State Objectives used in Texas colleges. We will primarily focus on reading and writing expository essays; however, we will also read and analyze literary works from the American canon.

The following description is taken from the ASU English Department website: Emphasizing the writing process, the course offers abundant practice in producing effective prose essays as well as in analyzing and discussing selected readings.

Prerequisites: Completion of English Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements.

Credit and Structure

- Three (3) semester hours
- Class meets daily, 1:09 – 1:54 PM (7th Period), Room 209

Required Texts

- Boylan, Kathy, et al. Let's Get Writing! Virginia Western Community College, 2018 (Provided digitally at no cost to students under a Creative Commons license).
- Various printed and digital handouts provided throughout the course of the semester.
Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.
- Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.
- Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.
- Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.
- Use Edited American English in academic essays.

Student Conduct Policies

Please abide by the following class policies:

- **Be on time!** Students are expected to be in the classroom, in their desks, and ready for the lesson when the bell rings. Tardies will be counted if you are not in the room when the bell rings per Sweetwater High School policy with an office referral on the fourth offense (Tardies will reset every six weeks).
- **Be prepared!** Students should be prepared for class each day and be ready to work hard. Students should always come to class with all materials necessary to succeed and with homework ready to turn in at the beginning of each class period.
- **Be respectful!** This classroom is a community of active learners and the expectation will be that all students will show each other respect during all activities. This classroom is to be a safe learning environment in which all students are encouraged to ask questions, share information, and construct meaning.

Cell Phones

- According to the Student Handbook, cell phone usage is prohibited during class time and will be enforced during my class. Make sure that your phone is turned off or put on silent (not vibrate, silent!), and either keep it in your backpack or pocket. Also, any type of headphone must be removed when class begins.
- If you are caught with your cell phone out for any reason once class has begun and you do not have my permission, it can and will be taken up. **No exceptions, no warnings.** According to Sweetwater High School's policy on cell phones as stated in the student handbook, the phone will be turned into the office if taken up and cannot be picked up until the end of the school day with consequences for each subsequent offense. However, if I end up taking up your phone and I do not have any arguments about it, I am willing to return it to you at my discretion without sending it to the office.
  - To avoid all this is very simple: **leave your phone alone!** You will still get to use it during passing periods and at lunch so just wait for those times!
- Also, you cannot charge your phones in my classroom without my permission. If I see a phone plugged into the wall during class, it will be taken up as usual. However, I will designate a charging station at my desk for those that wish to charge their phones and have received permission. There are a limited number of spaces, so it is first come, first served and make sure that you get your phone back before the end of class.
Grading Policy

- Daily work/Homework/Journal Entries 20%
- Tests/Major Essays/Projects 50%
- Quizzes 20%
- Participation 10%

Grading Scale:  
- A = 100-90  
- B = 89-80  
- C = 79-70  
- D = 69-60

All assignments are due at the start of the next class period unless I say otherwise. If you are absent from class the day an assignment is given be sure to get the assignment from me when you come back to class and you will need to complete your work and bring it to class the following day. Late work will be graded with a final grade of no higher than a 70. If an assignment is more than five (5) school days late, it will no longer be accepted and will enter as a zero in the gradebook.

If you do run into any instance where your work will be late that is not absence-related (illness, school function, etc.), make sure to communicate with me before or after class on the reason and we may be able to come to an agreement depending on the situation. Communication is very important to me as it shows you are respectful of your education and my time as well as it shows responsibility for your actions. Be proactive, talk to me, and stop late work issues before they happen!

Extra Credit and Returned Work

In addition, you will have opportunities to complete extra credit work to replace low daily grades as well as receive extra points on test grades. Credit will be offered, but not limited, for the following:

- Independent reading assignments (CommonLit worksheets)
- Reading a library book and completing a book report project
- Miscellaneous opportunities given throughout the year

Finally, all graded work will be returned to you via the class folder in the “Graded Work” box at the front of the room. I will let you know when I have put work in the folder so you can pick it up at an appropriate time before, during, or after class. If you do wish to talk to me about a specific grade, your class average, or anything related to your work, please do so before or after class or during non-instructional time (ie, I will not talk to you about your work in front of the entire class!)

Essay Workshops

The essay workshops are an essential part of this course as, not only are they a daily assignment grade, but they are also used to help you get much needed feedback on your writing as well as help you improve from your initial drafts. In order to take full advantage of the workshops, you must have a completed essay for feedback from myself and your peers. You will also be given the opportunity to actively revise your papers during the workshop and gain immediate feedback as well. The grade for the
workshop will be based on two points of criteria: 1) the paper is complete, ready for feedback and I have had the opportunity to discuss it with you and 2) the quality of the essay itself (in other words, if you were to make no major changes, the maximum grade that you could receive). The two criteria will be averaged together to make up your workshop grade (ex. 100 for having the paper completed and 80 for quality = 90 workshop grade).

Remind

I will be using Remind for all of my classes to keep you updated on upcoming assignments/tests as well as periodic announcements concerning our class. You, along with your parents/guardians, have already been added to the appropriate class (your school email has been used for this purpose), but you may also sign up for Remind with an alternative email or so you can receive text messages. To receive texts:

Text to the number 81010 and use the appropriate code:

- 7th Period – @3e678ekhae

If the number does not work and you do not receive a welcome message from Remind, text the same appropriate code to (216) 342-9191. To sign up with an alternative email you will need to visit www.remind.com. Feel free to ask if you have any problems completing either of these options.

Student Disability Services

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:

Ms. Dallas A. Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services

- 325-942-2047
- dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
- Houston Harte University Center

Title IX Statement

Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security of all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU’s Title IX Coordinator:
Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

ASU Student Conduct Policies

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft. In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or
reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**General Policies Related to This Course**

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [http://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/](http://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/)

**Final Thoughts**

Above all, use common sense and make sure to follow the Student Code of Conduct in my class. I’m generally very easy to get along with as I want the best from each and every one of my students. Do not hesitate to come to me with any questions about any assignment and I will be happy to help in any way that I can. If you need to come in for extra tutoring, please be sure to talk to me first so we can set up a time before or after school. I will be at school no later than 7:30 in the morning and will be here until at least 4:00.

Finally, I want you to enjoy this class and get the most out of your education as we go through the year. You will be exposed to different forms of literature that you may not have otherwise and have the opportunity to express yourself in your writing. If nothing else, just try and have some fun with your writing as well as really try to get into what we will be reading. Who knows what you might discover about yourself!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important ASU Dates</th>
<th>First Class Day for ASU - Monday, August 23rd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last Day to Drop a Class - Monday, November 22nd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ASU Finals Week – December 6th – 10th</td>
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Student/Teacher Treatment Agreement

Here you will find a “treatment agreement” that we (you and me) will follow throughout the school year. Look over the items below and then you and your parent/guardian sign at the bottom to acknowledge your understanding of what is expected from everyone in the classroom. You will also be given a copy of this agreement in Google Classroom and note that this will not take the place of the social contracts that we will be completing in class, but more as a “starting off point” for the class.

**Students to Students**

- Be kind, use nice words and tone
- Keep hands, feet & bodies to ourselves
- Do not make fun of others
- Ask before using things

**Teacher to Students**

- Be patient and don’t yell
- Give fair consequences
- Keep learning fun
- Don’t give up on me when I’m having a bad day

**Student to Teacher**

- Use kind words and appropriate voice level
- Follow rules and directions
- Always give your best effort
- Forgive me if I have a bad day

**Students & Teacher to Classroom**

- Keep your space neat
- Be safe and responsible with our supplies and classroom
- Leave the room nicer than you found it

**And the most important of all: OFFER GRACE**

I understand the agreement as given and promise to bring my very best to class every day.

Student: ____________________________ Date: ____________________

Parent/Guardian: ____________________________ Date: ____________________