

**English 3 Syllabus**  
**Matt Bishop**  
**Ghidotti Early College High School**

**Subject: The American Ethos: The Journey to Freedom**

*I reckon I got to light out for the Territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she's going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can't stand it. I been there before.*

**Course Goals:**

English 3 is a junior literature class which centers on American literature. We will study poetry, short stories, plays, novels, and nonfiction by American writers during the centuries it has taken to “sivilize,” in the words of Huck Finn, our country. We will explore just what it means to be civilized and the many ways Americans have acted in an “uncivilized” manner. By the end of the course, we will have a better understanding as to why America stands as a beacon of freedom for the rest of the world and how this belief has led to our current political and social ideology.

The study of literature helps students develop critical thinking skills that are essential for college study, for the working world, and for active and thoughtful membership in our society. We will complete various exercises directed at improving reading comprehension and fluency. In addition we will work on essay writing covering overall essay structure, paragraph structure, and sentence level correctness (grammar). Every lesson will cover at least one California State Standard in reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language.

**Books:**           *Seabiscuit*  
                          *The Crucible*  
                          *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
                          *Cold Mountain*  
                          *The Great Gatsby*  
                          *The Catcher in the Rye*  
                          *A Raisin in the Sun*  
                          Accelerated Reader self-selected novels

**Writing**

Reviewing literature-based essays, learning 6-part body paragraphs, practicing argumentative/persuasive essays, writing a research paper

**Reminders**

- Binder, pen, pencil, paper and textbook are required in class each day.
- Late work will be accepted for 50 percent credit and must be submitted during the quarter in which it was assigned.
- Make-up and extra-credit work are permitted with restrictions.
- Positive class participation is required.

**Extra Help**

I am available before and after school. Please send an email to [mbishop@njuhsd.com](mailto:mbishop@njuhsd.com).