

**GREAT NECK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL  
COURSE EXPECTATION SHEET**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**COURSE: Great Themes in Literature**

(Revised 6/07)

I. DESCRIPTION:

In this one-semester course, seniors will have the opportunity to explore the recurrent themes, questions, and observations that have concerned humankind for centuries. This course is designed for the student who would like to explore literature in every genre that deals with themes central to an understanding of our human condition. These include but are not limited to: self-awareness, identity, conformity and rebellion, survival and death, alienation, love and hate.

II. READINGS:

Students will study the works of both classical and contemporary authors, such as Wilde, Kafka, Dickey, Kesey, O'Brien, Stoker, Albee, and Goldman.

III. WRITING:

There will be a variety of writing experiences, including but not limited to: personal essays, expository papers, critical analyses, comparisons between works, and a research paper.

IV. STUDENT/TEACHER/CONFERENCES:

Students will be expected to have writing conferences with the teacher. If the student and teacher do not share a mutually convenient free period, it is the student's responsibility to find a convenient time.

V. HOMEWORK/TESTS/GRADING:

Students are required to do all assigned readings and papers. There will be both daily and long range assignments. Major tests will be given on English testing date. Unannounced quizzes may be given at any time.

Grades will be based on papers, tests, quizzes, homework, class participation and a final exam.

It is the responsibility of absent students to arrange a time to make up missed work and tests. Students will be responsible for submitting all assignments on the dates they are due, unless prior arrangements have been approved by the teacher. All unapproved late work will be penalized by a reduction in grade.

VI. SPECIAL HELP:

Students are encouraged to attend special help on the day before English testing day.

VII. ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY:

Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Cutting is not permitted. If students intentionally absent themselves from a class without a legitimate reason, they will not be entitled to make up any assignments or exams missed during that period. Intentional absences are a clear message that students are not interested in doing their best. Excessive illegal absence or any cutting will result in parental notification and will have a impact on how class participation will be factored into quarter and final grades. Attendance/participation will count as much as 20% of a student's grade.

VIII. PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

Plagiarism is defined as presenting the thoughts, writings, and ideas of other people as one's own.

Integrity of the academic process requires that credit be given where credit is due. Accordingly, it is unethical to present as one's own work, the ideas, representations, or words of another or to permit another to present one's own work without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.