

SYLLABUS

"You know my methods. Apply them."

Course Outline

Through this course students will continue to develop higher-order thinking skills through the analysis, evaluation, and critique of literature. This course is also designed to lay and/or build upon the foundation for students as they take advanced levels of English. Students will learn from set objectives established for them to be successful in exams, in other classes, and in life.

Class Norms

Be Prepared Be Positive
Be Polite Be Participators
(Campus/district policies will be observed also)

Homework

Homework will be assigned regularly. It will usually be due before the tardy bell rings two days (the first class) after the assignment. Homework will not be accepted the same period that it is assigned. Classwork not finished in class may be treated as homework, at Mr. Mikesell's discretion.

Late Work

Students who have not turned in homework within the first 5 minutes of class the day it is due will suffer a 10% penalty. Each day (not each class meeting) the assignment is late will add an additional 10% penalty. Late work must be presented to Mr. Mikesell for his initialed acceptance before it can be turned in. Absence due to extracurricular activity does not grant an extension.

Dishonesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. At a minimum, zeroes will be recorded in the grade book for either offense, for all parties involved in the cheating or copying. Additional consequences may apply.

Classroom Entry Procedure

To make entry into the classroom as smooth as possible, please make sure you arrive ready to get to work. Once you've entered the room, please get your journal. Find your desk and begin the bellringer exercise. Pencils should be sharpened before the tardy bell rings.

Spelling / Vocabulary / Grammar / Punctuation

All are important, and students are expected to turn in assignments with proper care taken in each of these areas.

Notes and Keeper Sheets

Take notes. Summarizing ideas as they are presented/discussed will help you master the material more quickly than listening passively. You will also be provided with "Keeper" sheets reviewing the basics of key areas we'll be studying. Keep them all handy. Use them for studying.

Classroom Supplies

Bring these to class every day:

- A 3-ring binder, at least an inch thick
- 5 dividers for the binder (see next page)
- A 70-page spiral notebook or composition book.
- Filler paper (loose-leaf notebook paper)
- Blue or black pens, pencils, highlighters
- A great attitude

Be sure to review this syllabus (front and back) with your parent(s) and have them sign on the back. It's due in class on/by September 4/5, 2014.

Grading Scale (district standard)

40% Classwork/Homework
25% Tests
20% Projects
15% Six-weeks' Exam

Major Texts (Pre-AP English II)

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor**

by Thomas C. Foster

*Mythology** by Edith Hamilton

The Old Man and the Sea

by Ernest Hemingway (Summer/6W1)

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (6W1)

The Odyssey by Homer (6W2)

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (6W3)

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare (6W4)

Lord of the Flies by William Golding (6W6)

*Strongly recommended

Six-week listings, above, are approximate. Two weeks' notice will be given prior to beginning a book.

Essays

Writing is an integral part of this course. We will spend time learning and reviewing good grammar usage, style, and voice in class, but for many students class time is not enough. If this is the case for you, attending tutoring will help. The essay can "make or break" your EOC score as well as your 6-weeks' grade.

Leaving the Classroom

Permission to leave the classroom once the tardy bell has rung will be granted in emergency situations. Please monitor your liquid intake: only one restroom pass per student will be granted each month.

Progress Reports

Paper/printed progress reports will be issued upon parent request. Students and parents can monitor grades using the DISD Parent Portal. Grades on Parent Portal will be updated every 2-2½ weeks.

Test Make-Up

Students **MUST** attend a Post-Test Tutorial before they may retest or submit corrections.

Quizzes

Students will be given unannounced pop quizzes. Quizzes are timed. Each quiz counts as a daily grade. Quizzes are not subject to Dallas ISD's retest policy.

English Binder

Students must bring an English Binder to class daily. This is a 3-ring binder at least 1-inch thick (if you are sharing the binder with another subject, it must be larger). There should be 5 tab dividers in the binder labeled as follows

1. Class Notes
2. Classwork/Homework
3. Essays/Tests
4. Short Stories/Poems
5. Personal Dictionary

When this syllabus is returned to you, it should go in front of the first tab divider.

Up to two binder grades will be taken every 6-weeks, which will count as project grades.

You **CANNOT** leave your binder in this classroom. Not only is it a tool to help you study, but theft/vandalism may be a problem.

My child has shown and discussed with me the syllabus for his/her English class.
I will do my best to provide the support he/she needs to be successful in this class.

Student Name

Parent Signature

Preferred Contact: Phone number/email