

English II Honors Course Outline

Philosophy and Course Description: Honors English II prepares students for advanced placement language arts courses by honing their skills in analysis, critical thinking, writing, argumentation, and oral presentations. Through the reading of a variety of texts of differing styles and genres, students are challenged to evaluate opposing worldviews as well as defend a biblical worldview. They will implement sound persuasive techniques into their writing, discussions, and oral presentations. Students will incorporate research and textual comprehension into their writings. They will also have opportunities to interact with texts in creative ways, enhancing their understanding of the creative process. As well, students will defend their ideas using logic and evidence through various debate-style opportunities, preparing them for the demands of all advanced courses within the humanities.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, the students will:

- A. Analyze and evaluate a variety of literary texts with a Christian worldview.
- B. Effectively employ active listening, critical thinking, and reading strategies.
- C. Continue to develop vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills through recognition and usage.
- D. Formulate a personal resume, career research, and cover letter in preparation for college applications.
- E. Demonstrate competency in research, organization, and defense of two term papers.
- F. Present thoughtful, organized, and well-argued written and oral expression.

Course Outline

Yearlong

- SAT Latin vocabulary
- Persuasive argumentation
- Oral presentation skills (graded discussions, debates, presentations, etc.)

Semester 1

- *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Independent classic novel (essay and speech)
- *Night*, Elie Wiesel
- Poetry
 - Poet research and poetry project

Semester 2

- *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding
- Current world issue/hero term paper
 - Research of a current world issue/problem and a “hero” who has worked to solve this issue, presentation of findings in a term speech
- *Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis
- Folktales (rewrite of a folktale, legend, etc.)
- *Much Ado About Nothing*, William Shakespeare

Movies Watched:

- Clips from *The Great Gatsby* (both 1974 and 2013, appropriate scenes only)
- Clips from various Disney movies and shorts (as needed to complement short story unit)
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (1995, edited for the classroom)

Course Materials:

Bring the following each day

1. Three ring binder with the following:
 - a. Blank binder paper
 - i. NO PAPER TORN FROM SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS IS ACCEPTED
 - b. Dividers for:
 - i. Journals (must be done on paper)

- ii. Writer's Workshop
 - iii. Graded work
 - iv. Optional: class work (may be taken on iPad instead)
 - v. Optional: homework to be turned in
2. Planner/agenda: have a system for writing down homework details not listed in RenWeb
 3. iPad: charged and functioning
 4. Pen AND pencil (with eraser)
 5. Non-iPad literature, if applicable

Course Evaluation:

Evaluation of student mastery of course competencies (i.e. your grade) will be accomplished using the following grading scale A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0

Grading Categories:

Grading will be on a pure points basis. Each point, regardless of category, is equal in this class. The more important an assignment is, the more points it is worth.

- **Classwork and homework (CW/HW):** Writer's workshop, small assignments, group work, etc.
- **Essays and Projects (E&P):** Research papers, quarter projects, essays, rough drafts, etc.
- **Tests and Quizzes:** Weekly Latin vocabulary quizzes, unit quizzes, unit tests.
 - *Unless otherwise noted, any and all topics discussed in class could be on an upcoming test or final exam. Therefore, it is your responsibility to take notes during all lessons.
- **Speeches:** Each quarter will have at least one main speech and possibly shorter speeches. Outlines and visual aids, if required, count toward speech grades.

Classroom Policies and Procedures:

- **Tardies:** When the bell rings, you are *in your seat* with:
 - All of your materials (binder, iPad, books, pen/pencil)
 - iPad in the basket under your desk
 - Backpack, purse, etc. in the BACK of the room
 - Cell phone turned to complete silent and in your assigned spot in the phone holder on the wall
- **Backpacks:** Backpacks, purses, etc. must be either on the shelf in the back of the room or on the floor directly below it
 - Not along the side of the room
 - Not in an empty desk near you
 - Not in one of the spare chairs around the room
- **Cell Phones:**
 - Cell phones must be in your assigned spot on the wall.
 - Cell phones must be on complete silent--*not vibrate*.
 - Anytime your cell phone makes noise, I will keep it until the end of class. If this becomes a recurring issue, further consequences will be discussed.
- **Food:** No food may be eaten inside the classroom without permission.
 - If there is a reason you need to eat/finish eating, ask permission before taking a single bite inside the classroom.
 - The bell has no bearing on being allowed to eat within the walls of B5. Do not walk into the room finishing the last few bites of your food. That's what the hallway is for.
- **Drinks:** Water is always allowed without needing permission. Don't spill. Clean up spills and condensation.
 - Any drink other than water must be approved before you bring it to your desk. Otherwise, leave it on the back shelf.
- **Leaving/Moving Seats:** Stay in your seat and do not move your desk unless given permission.
 - You must ask permission to leave the classroom. You must also sign out, take the hall pass, and sign back in when you return.
 - It is required **by law** that you sign out when leaving and sign in upon your return.

- **Talking:** Talking/signing/gesturing/miming/etc. while I or another student is talking is the likeliest reason for discipline in my class.
 - Discussions: When I ask a general question of the class, you are always allowed to chime in/answer. If it is a one-at-a-time type discussion, please do not interrupt your peers. We all find it annoying.
 - Lectures, instructions, etc.: If I am speaking, you are not. This includes the whispering you think I don't see (seriously, everyone sees it), gesturing, signing, etc. Again, if you have a question or comment, raise your hand.
- **Due Dates:** All regular assignments are due when the bell rings. Assignments that are finished while I am collecting homework will be late.
 - If your paper has been torn from a spiral bound notebook, the perforations need to be torn off before I will accept the assignment.
- **End of Class:** The class will be dismissed by the teacher—not the bell. Typically, I dismiss you with about a minute to pack up. Thus, if you are putting away your binder, etc. while I am still teaching, you have just cost your class their extra minute.

iPads

All rules in the Acceptable Use Policy apply to this class.

- iPads should always be in the basket under your desk until I tell you to open it.
- Bring your iPad, fully charged and functioning, to class every day. Failure to do so could result in lost points for any assignments that day.
- **No photographs or video may be taken in class without permission.**
 - This is a law, not a preference I have. You are legally liable if you take a photo or video without permission.
- *If you look suspicious, I will check your iPad.*

Late and Absent Work Policies

	Late	Absent when assigned	Absent when due	Couldn't print--share NOW or it's late
HW/small stuff	1 week, ½ credit	2 days/day gone, full credit	2 days/day gone, full credit	Share via Drive NOW, print within 1 school day
Test/quizzes/ Latin quiz	n/a	n/a (unless pop quiz)	Be ready 1st day back -email or see me	n/a
Speeches	10% off per <u>calendar</u> day	n/a	Turnitin.com <u>and</u> printed 1st day back (or it's late)	Share via Drive NOW, print within 1 school day
Projects/ Essays/Major Assignments	10% off per <u>calendar</u> day	n/a	Turnitin.com <u>and</u> printed 1st day back (or it's late)	Share via Drive NOW, print within 1 school day (N/A FOR TERM PROJECTS, RESEARCH PAPER ETC.)

Grading Time Frame:

- Most late/absent work goes into a special folder and isn't graded until the last week of the quarter.
 - Sometimes it's graded early. You're welcome. Don't complain if it doesn't happen regularly.
 - Late projects/rough drafts are graded sooner.
- **Late and absent work are both entered as 0 with a code of missing (sorry, this is a RenWeb**

limitation).

- This means that both late and absent work will show up as a 0 until they are graded at the end of the quarter. I keep a record of each assignment, so I will know if it gets full credit or half credit when I grade it. If you are ever unsure, we can check my gradebook.
- Sometimes, this will also be the case with work you couldn't print by the due date. If I grade the assignment before you get yours printed, it goes in my "late/absent" folder and is graded at the end of the quarter. Your grade will change from a 0 to a full credit grade at the end of the quarter.

Merit Passes: only allowed on certain assignments

- HW/Small stuff: used to receive full credit (instead of ½ credit), no extra time
- Tests/quizzes: not allowed
- Speeches, Essays, Projects: not allowed (will be noted on the handout)
- Essays/Major Assignments: can only be used to erase the first late day/10%

Cheating and Plagiarism

"Lying lips [and pens] are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Proverbs 12:22). Cheating and plagiarism are not allowed. Examples of cheating and/or plagiarism include (but are not limited to): submitting someone else's work (either entirely or in part) as your own; using ideas that are not your own when not allowed or without giving credit to your source; getting answers for test, exam, or quiz questions from other students or a source not permitted during or before a test, exam, or quiz; speaking to another student during a test, exam, or quiz about the material; assisting another student in any form of cheating or plagiarism; etc. Should you be unsure whether or not you are plagiarizing, please see the teacher BEFORE submitting an assignment. Please see the student handbook for further information.

Contact Info:

Gmail (preferred): Mrs.Samoulides@gmail.com
School phone: (925) 945-6464 ext. 222