

This is an accelerated English class for sophomores who plan to take AP English or English 11 Honors as juniors, and much of the work of this class is to prepare students for these classes; however, students who prefer the rigor and in-depth thinking and writing of an honors class will benefit from taking it regardless of their academic plan.

Our major texts are Holt's *Elements of Literature* (we will use both the 4th and 6th course texts). In addition to these texts, we will read as a class *Things Fall Apart* (summer reading), *Into the Wild*, *Lord of the Flies*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and *Animal Farm*. As small groups, you will read *Cannery Row*, *The Pearl*, or *Of Mice and Men* by Steinbeck. Other essays, short stories, newspaper articles, poems, and academic articles may be used for discussion and composition.

Composition projects will include narrative, various arguments, a 3rd term sophomore research project, and many shorter exercises.

Class rules are simple: be here, on time; be courteous and respectful; be prepared with books, pens, paper, completed assignments, etc.; obey school rules; and show your dedication to our work by putting away electronic devices—including phones and ipods.

Grading scale: 94-100=**A**, 90-93=**A-**, 87-89=**B+**, 84-87=**B**, 80-83=**B-**, 77-79=**C+**, 74-77=**C**, 70-73=**C-**, 67-69=**D+**, 64-67=**D**, 60-63=**D+**, 0-59=**F**

Late work will suffer a 50% penalty, unless the work is more than a week late. Then, the work may lose up to 80%, depending on circumstances. If you are absent (excused), you have 2 class days to make up missed work. It is your responsibility to ask about missed assignments.

You have no make-up privileges if you cut class or are absent and unexcused the day an assignment is due. Make-up work for extended absences should be discussed with me, but not during class.

Tardiness adversely affects your grades for several reasons. You may lose a percentage of your grade for absences and tardies—up to 20% of your total grade, as per district policy. You cannot make up quizzes or short, in-class projects missed when you were tardy. You will lack information discussed while you were not in class. Some extra credit will be available for those who have one absence or tardy. A little more extra credit will be available for those with no absences or tardies. Missing class for school-sponsored activities will not count against you in this regard.

Please sign and return to me by September 2, 2011.

Student _____

Parent _____