Disclosure of Class Policies & Procedures

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. - Marie Curie

English 12 with Mrs. Simmons in room C-16
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COURSE CONTENT & TEXTS

The twelfth grade language arts course of study is for young adults who are preparing to enter the world of work, further training, or higher education. Reading continues to be taught, emphasizing literary analysis/criticism, historical commentary, political statements, and culturally and historically significant literary works. Writing to learn emphasizes cause and effect analysis and refutation of opposing opinions, and important text connections. Revision and editing in written work are further refined, and inquiry becomes more meaningful as students approach graduation from school and entrance into the adult phase of their lives. The intended outcome in our study of British/World Literature & Composition is for students to value, appreciate, and demonstrate literacy through expressive and receptive language skills, and to understand and investigate the self, others, the culture, and the environment. Emphasis will be placed on refining and employing the valuable real world skills of critical thinking, close reading, clarity of writing, thorough research, respectful listening, and cooperative learning. Students will be actively engaged in the process of seeking and giving information in conversations, group discussions, written essays, and oral presentations.

* Approved Course Texts: Elements of Literature & Elements of Language - HRW Sixth Course supplemented by various other literary works, criticism, non-fiction articles, essays, etc. as deemed both relevant and appropriate for our current course of instruction, analysis, research, and class discussion.

* Supplementary Class Works are not limited to but may include the following: Edith Hamilton’s Mythology, Tim O’Brien’s The Things They Carried, William Golding’s Lord of the Flies, Robert Louis Stevenson’s Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, Alan Paton’s Cry the Beloved Country, and various plays (e.g. Macbeth, The Taming of the Shrew, A Raisin in the Sun). Most reading is assigned to be completed outside class with discussion and deeper analysis to be conducted together in class with instructor guidance.

ATTENDANCE, CITIZENSHIP, DUES & GRADING

YOU have the right and responsibility to learn.
I have the right and responsibility to teach.

No one has the right to interfere with this process.
What we’ve got to do is to keep up our spirits and be neighborly. - Charles Dickens

1. R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Treat the classroom (everyone and everything in it) with respect. Whether speaking, listening, viewing, reading, or writing, you are expected to participate appropriately. Before acting or speaking, THINK and ask yourself: Would I be enhancing or detracting from our scholarly experience together? Would it be helpful or harmful?

2. Please familiarize yourself with the NSD & SHS policies (attendance, discipline, dress, etc.). Not only am I required to enforce them, but I also believe they were established with the sincere intent and noble purpose of ensuring an orderly and safe learning environment designed to support you in your efforts to realize the promise of our established SHS mission statement: DUES = Dedicated to Excellence, United in Service, and Educated for Success. You begin each term with a perfect 100 pt. DUES score - your charge is to keep it!

3. This is NOT set up as a correspondence course! You will need to be present (in both mind & body) to keep up, progress, and benefit. You are expected to come to class each day on-time and prepared (i.e. with pen, pencil, paper, assignments, texts and flashdrive in hand), so you are ready, focused, and eager to participate fully and contribute meaningfully to course instruction, discussions, and activities.

4. Writing Assignments: A primary instructional objective of this course is to improve your writing. Grading large numbers of papers, however, neither fits with the adopted Common Core’s stated College & Career Ready goals nor is it logistically feasible, philosophically advisable, or reflective of best practice as noted in reputable research (Walvoord & Anderson, 1999). Analogously, just as not every shot (written assignment) a basketball player (student) takes scores a point or is even recorded, it is still required by the coach (teacher) that her/his team member (student) will participate fully and complete the directed practice regimen in order to sharpen and refine her/his skills. Naturally, each player (student) is also expected to give her/his best effort with each required performance whether it be a routine practice session or the championship game.

Good English, well-spoken and well-written will open more doors than a college degree... Bad English will slam doors you don’t even know exist. - William Raspberry
Grading Percentage Scale

A (100-94)  A- (93-90)  B+ (89-87)  B (86-83)  B- (82-80)  C+ (79-77)  C (76-73)
C- (72-70)  D+ (69-67)  D (66-63)  D- (62-60)  F (59-0)

* You are strongly encouraged to make a daily habit of viewing announcements, checking assignments, and accessing course documents posted on our class website: http://my.uen.org/B10 *

MAKE-UP WORK

Discipline is the beginning of any performance. When you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to make arrangements to conference with me and/or acquire class handouts, notes, instruction, assignments, etc. before you return to class.

A. If you miss an exam during an excused absence, you will not make up the test if I/we have begun grading it, but will receive a grade that is the average of all your exam scores for that term. However, you are required to take at least half of all exams given each term or will receive a zero for each exam missed. The SHS Testing Center is available to students on a “first come, first served” basis after school on Wednesdays in C-26.

B. Quizzes may or may not be announced ahead of time, usually occur at the beginning of the period, and cannot be made up - defeats the purpose of a spot check!

C. Pre-excused/school excused absences:
   Contact me BEFORE your scheduled absence to arrange make-up work. You may take an exam early under these circumstances, provided it is available.

D. I can arrange to be available in my classroom after school and past contract hours for conferencing, consulting, make-up or further assistance upon request and by appointment.

LATE & INCOMPLETE WORK

Meeting deadlines is a “real world” task (… just ask the IRS and credit card companies about the penalties they apply!). If an assignment is not submitted or incomplete when it is due and you have not discussed it with me or made prior arrangements, then the most you can earn on the assignment is 50%. You may still complete, submit, and have the assignment recorded as turned in for possible “reward” consideration (and the intrinsic benefits, of course) but it is unlikely to be given feedback. Should you have any concerns or encounter unanticipated difficulties with the completion of your work, it is expected that you will notify me immediately, so we might work together towards a satisfactory resolution.

Keep in Mind: The less I know and the later it grows, the more problematic and stressful it may become for you.

REWARD

If, at the end of the term, ALL of your assignments have been turned in and ALL of your exams and quizzes have been taken, your final grade may be raised 1/3 (i.e. B+ to A-).

EXTRA CREDIT (E.C.)

- The REWARD is worth more than any single extra credit opportunity, since we may average anywhere from 500 to 1500+ possible points recorded for completed coursework each term.
- E.C. assignments may be offered occasionally throughout the year to the entire class, and are intended for effort above and beyond what is expected.
- No E.C. will be granted on an individual basis. So be alert and prepared to take advantage when E.C. opportunities are announced and made available (e.g. writing contests, in-class connections, etc.).

Miscellaneous

- Assignments should be typewritten unless otherwise instructed.
- You are strongly encouraged to secure an SHS laptop compatible flashdrive for storing, accessing, transporting, and printing out evidence of required writing process steps and research work/notes.
- Handwritten work should be completed in black/blue pen unless instructed otherwise.
- Printer problems: SHS has multiple labs available for student use. You may e-mail me your assignment to hold temporarily and record as received “on-time.” However, you must still print and submit a hardcopy ASAP for it to be graded and recorded with a completion score.
- Cellphone and unauthorized electronic device usage are prohibited in accordance with the NSD and SHS policies and will be enforced strictly. This also means no referencing, taking snapshots, tweeting, posting or making recordings without instructor permission!
- While YOUR learning is YOUR responsibility and opportunity, I consider it my privilege to further guide and assist you upon your sincere request.
- If you ever need additional clarification, please don’t hesitate to ask. I can’t help if I am not aware of your confusion, concerns, or circumstances.
- Bubba Gump says, “Stupid is as Stupid DOES!” Soooo, DON’T BE! ☺ DO ...

... Be SMART, Be HERE, Be READY to LEARN, Follow Directions, Do the Work, and Be HAPPY!!!

BOTTOM LINE: I want you to succeed and will do my best to assist you in your efforts to do so!
CLASS HONOR CODE & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This class will be conducted under an Honor Code. My expectation is that all my students will demonstrate integrity and uphold high standards of individual honesty in academic work, abide by our classroom/SHS/NSD policies, and show respect for others. Students in my class are expected to support an environment of academic integrity, have the right to such an environment, and should avoid all aspects of academic dishonesty. Examples of academic dishonesty include plagiarizing, faking of data, sharing information during an exam, discussing an exam with another student who has not taken the exam, consulting reference material during an exam, submitting a written assignment which was authored by someone other than you, and/or cheating in any form. Violators of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. Evidence of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course and disciplinary review by administration.

All students are expected to be academically honest and to complete and submit only their own original work. A brief definition and explanation of what constitutes “plagiarism” is provided below, and we will continue to review and discuss methods for avoiding plagiarism as the school year progresses. Should a student violate the Honor Code, course penalties will be swift and severe, at a minimum likely to result in the loss of credit for the assignment and/or that term of English.

Plagiarism can be defined as submitting another person’s ideas, words, images or data without giving that person credit or proper acknowledgement. Plagiarism, a form of academic dishonesty, is tantamount to stealing and will not be tolerated. In order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism, you should be aware that you have committed plagiarism when you:

- use phrases, quotes or ideas not your own;
- paraphrase the work of another even though you may have changed the wording or syntax;
- use facts or data not considered common knowledge;
- submit a paper written for another class (academic dishonesty);
- submit a paper from an essay service or agency even though you may have paid for it (theses papers are usually of low quality, so you probably did not get your money’s worth);
- submit a paper by another person even though s/he may have given you permission to use it.

You should note that plagiarism not only encompasses written work, but also computer data, research, musical scores, video programs, and visual arts.

Plagiarism is a serious issue, especially in an academic environment. Teachers must be able to rely on the integrity of a student’s work in order to maintain a climate for successful learning. Plagiarism reflects on character; therefore, you should diligently avoid any inadvertent acts of plagiarism. When you are unsure if acknowledgement is needed, ask your teacher!

I, __________________________________________________, am aware of the class policies and procedures, particularly the serious nature of plagiarism. On my honor, I will not use or submit someone else’s work without proper acknowledgement, nor will I misrepresent another’s ideas or work as my own. I will be honest in my assertions and strive to be accurate in grading my own work and in assessing the performance of my peers.

___________________________________________
(Student Signature)                                     (Date)