English I Honors Syllabus

2017-18

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English I Honors is for students who are especially committed to challenging their reading and writing skills. Students who register or this course are assumed to be proficient or advanced writers and readers, or will be able to develop those skills, and they are asked to possess a willingness to work through challenging material. Additional analytical skills and self-motivation are required in order to stay on track. As honors students, you will be required to go above and beyond the standard curriculum, focusing on more in-depth writing and independent reading selections. You will be required to read additional texts, both in and out of class. Honors students are required to complete a significant amount of work at home, so be prepared for homework.

Students must have completed previously assigned summer reading books (including annotation) in order to begin this course successfully. Students who have not read both books will be removed from the course by Guidance.

**Class Rules/Expectations**

Students must follow all school rules and my classroom rules.

1. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn everyday.
2. Be responsible for your own learning.
3. Respect the teacher, the classroom, and other students.

**Required Materials**

* 3-ring binder w/dividers
* Blue or Black Pens and Pencils
* Looseleaf Notebook Paper
* Highlighters (multiple colors)
* Sticky Notes

**Texts**

Throughout the year, we will read the following texts (subject to change):

* *To Kill a Mockingbird*—Harper Lee (Summer Reading)
* *The Joy Luck Club*—Amy Tan (Summer Reading)
* *Anthem*—Ayn Rand
* *Persepolis*—Marjane Satrapi
* *The Glass Menagerie*—Tennessee Williams
* *Romeo & Juliet*—William Shakespeare
* *Mythology*—Edith Hamilton (Excerpts)
* *The Odyssey*—Homer (Excerpts)
* Independent Non-Fiction (2nd 9 Weeks)
* Independent Coming of Age Novel (4th 9 Weeks)

In addition to the titles listed above, we will be reading a variety of articles, essays, and short stories.

**Vocabulary Workbook**

There is a $10 fee for your vocabulary workbook. This fee is due on Friday, August 19. Checks should be made payable to GBHS. Please let me know if you have financial difficulties and cannot pay this fee.

**Grades**

Grades will be done on a point system. Your final nine-week average will be the percentage earned of the total possible points. Grades are updated frequently online for students and parents to check. Points vary depending on the assignment. For example, tests and major writing assignments are typically worth 100 points while classwork/homework assignments may be 10-25 points.

**Absences**

It is your responsibility to check to see what work you have missed during your absence and to check when you may make up quizzes or tests. You may be required to come before school for make-ups. Check the assignment notebook or the class website. **All makeup work is due on the 3rd day back to school.** Missed quizzes, tests, and other assessments must be made up before school unless I approve an in-class makeup; after school is not an option. Work assigned or tests announced before the absence must be made up the 1st day back to school. Students cannot make up assignments, tests, or quizzes missed during an unexcused absence.

**Late Work**

Late homework/classwork will not be accepted for any credit unless prior arrangements were made with me. Late projects and essays will lose one letter grade per day; no papers/projects will accepted more than 3 school days past the due date.

**Discipline**

I expect good behavior from all of my students and do not wish to write referrals, so please do not make them necessary. Major infractions will result in an immediate referral to the dean. Referrals will also be issued following the school’s tardy and cell phone policy. In addition, smaller infractions will have a cumulative effect, eventually resulting in a discipline referral.

* + 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
  + 2nd Offense: Email to Parents; Teacher Referral
  + 3rd Offense: Discipline Referral

**Electronic Devices**

In today’s world, cell phones and tablets are invaluable, especially in education. I encourage the appropriate use of technology in my classroom. At announced times, you will be allowed to use your phone in class for educational purposes. However, explicit permission must be given before the use of any electronic devices. The use of electronic devices for personal use (texting, games, etc.) is prohibited per school policy. If I see you using your cell phone without permission, I will take it until the end of the class. The second time it happens, you will have to get your phone back from the dean. On days of tests, quizzes, and in-class essays, you will be required to turn in your cell phones for the duration of the period; this may be extended to other days as well.

**Plagiarism/Cheating**

Plagiarism (**both intentional and unintentional**) and cheating is unacceptable in an academic setting. Students will receive an **automatic zero** and a discipline referral for cheating or plagiarism. We will be reviewing examples of plagiarism so that all students will have an understanding of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism. Copying someone else’s work or sharing answers on independent work is considered cheating.

**Extra Credit**

I offer extra credit reading each grading period; the choices and deadline will be announced at the beginning of quarter. Students are be required to obtain their own copy of the book and must come in the morning before school to take a reading quiz. Students may not take extra credit quizzes at any other time. Typically, this is the only extra credit offered in this course.

**Misc. Notes**

* This class requires regular Internet access, including occasional printing. Please make arrangements in advance to meet this requirement.
* Sports and other obligations do not excuse you from assignments. Please plan your schedules as necessary. Parents and coaches will be notified if this becomes an issue.

**English I Honors**

Please detach this page and return it to Mrs. Odom by the end of the first week of classes along with the $10 workbook fee. Keep the rest of the syllabus in the front of your binder for future reference.

GBHS school policy requires that parents/guardians and students read the course syllabus and sign acknowledging that they understand what is expected for the course. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I have read the syllabus for English I Honors and am aware of what is expected of me in this class. The class rules and expectations have been fully explained to me.

Additionally, I realize that I will be responsible and accountable for the textbook and novels associated with this course. If I lose or damage any of these, I agree to pay the price of replacement.

Student Name: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents, please sign below indicating you have reviewed this information with your child. Additionally, please indicate approval for the viewing of PG and PG-13 movies for educational purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ My child CAN view PG and PG-13 movies.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ My child CANNOT view PG or PG-13 movies.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_