English 11

2017-2018

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Overview

In conjunction with the reading and analysis of various pieces of literature, students will also improve their writing skills through journal writing, vocabulary practice, grammar practice, and multiple writing projects that will be an opportunity for the student to showcase their progress. As a class, we will also further our understanding outside of the printed word through various forms of media, class discussion, public speaking, class debate, and other forms of expression.

Class Rules and Expectations

It is expected that students will adhere to class rules and procedures. You are expected to come into class and begin your bellwork right away. Bellwork and journal entries may be displayed on the SmartBoard (journal prompts will always be on the SmartBoard), be a handout, be a piece of reading, or be other things. Time before the bell is not to be used to socialize but to prepare for class. Here is a list of things that are to be taken care of before class:

* Use of the restroom
* Discarding of trash
* Sharpening pencils or asking classmates for a writing utensil
* Asking for others for writing paper

Materials Needed for Class

* Pens and Pencils
* A notebook for journal writing
* A three-ring binder with addition paper/notebook for class notes- Divide into Literature, Writing, Vocabulary, Grammar, and Notes.
* Literature book, novel, or any other material indicated by the teacher

As a member of this class, there is an expectation that the rules of the class will be followed. It is a matter of respect—not just for the teacher, but to your fellow classmates as well. The rules are as follows:

* Students will be in their desk when the bell rings, or be marked as tardy
* Students will refrain from eating food, drinking soda, juice, etc. while in the classroom. Water is acceptable.
* During the time the teacher is giving instructions, conducting class activities, facilitating discussion, showing film, etc., the student will be attentive and refrain from conversation, doing homework from other classes, or any other activity deemed a distraction by the teacher.
* Students must have their materials at all times, which consists of pens or pencils, a notebook, a journal notebook, a three-ring binder, and anything else that is needed or necessary for class.
* Students who fail to bring materials to class or fail to bring class work in a timely manner will not be allowed to retrieve these materials during class time, except when the teacher deems that it is absolutely necessary.
* All students will have the expectation that their personal space, personal thoughts, ideas shared in class, and anything else considered personal—physically and intellectually—will be respected by others. Disrespect will not be tolerated.
* All students will be expected to put forth their best effort in class. The student’s best effort relates to their class work, classroom participation, attitudes and behavior toward the class in general and attitudes toward fellow classmates
* All students will maintain school-appropriate behavior at all times.
* This class will be a RED ZONE, unless indicated by the teacher for use of a dictionary application or the clicker via smartphone.

Grading Scale

93-100: A 73-76: C

90-92: A- 70-72: C-

87-89: B+ 67-69: D+

83-86: B 63-66: D

80-82: B- 60-62: D

77-79: C+ 59 and below: F

Your grade is based on an accumulation of points, with tests, quizzes, and writing projects worth more points. However, with scheduled checks of journal entries, post-class quizzes, etc., it is in your best interest to complete everything. Missed points add up, and in the end, it could be the difference between passing the class or failure.

**Note on cheating and homework**: If it is found the student copied work from another student or source, the student will not receive credit for the assignment. If it is found that students are engaging in cheating through any other means, then homework grades will not be given or will be dependent on student performance on tests and quizzes.

Tardies and Absences

Please keep track of these during the school year and be sure to refer to the student code of conduct in regard to school policy concerning these two topics. This is something that you can control easily, and please do not risk losing credit in any course because of tardiness or absences. When you receive your fourth and eighth tardy, you will have teacher assigned detention. If you have more than 10 tardies, *you will lose credit for this class.* If you go over 10 absences for the semester in a class, *you will receive no credit for the class.*

Passes

Passes are given at the discretion of the teacher. If it is determined a student is abusing this policy, then the student will not be given permission to leave class.

Make-Up Work

Make-up work that needs to be completed due to absence is the SOLE responsibility of the student. This means I will not find you in order to give make-up work. When you do have make-up work, make sure to complete it within the allotted time that is given to you—one day for class assignments and a week for quizzes and tests. If the work is not completed, it will be marked as a zero in the gradebook.

Writing Portfolio and Journal Writing

Each student will keep a writing portfolio, which will be periodically checked, In addition, each week, the journal entries will be checked and graded every Friday—make sure to keep up with the writing, and if you miss a day, check the topic board because you will be still responsible for each day’s journal entry. You must write the specified amount given by the teacher to receive credit.

Academic Integrity

All of your work in this class must be your own—cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. When using someone else’s words—whether they are from a book, magazine, website, etc., make sure you use quotation marks or give credit to the source if not within a formal writing assignment. If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing, the appropriate procedure per school and district policy will be followed. All parties, which include the student, parents, and school administrators, will be notified if such an occurrence is to take place.

**Phone Policy**:

*If phones become a distraction in the classroom, the following policy will be implemented*:

Upon entering the classroom, students are required to put their smartphone or any electronic device into a secure holder in the classroom, or they may choose to keep the smartphone or device in their locker.  This is to ensure that the learning environment is maintained and that non-educational applications or websites do not become a distraction during the students’ instructional time. Smartphones or any other device will be allowed to be used at the teacher’s discretion.  If the student does not put their smartphone or device into the secure area and engages in unauthorized use of the device, the device will be confiscated and turned into the main office where a guardian or parent can pick up the device.

Changes in the Syllabus

As a matter of maintaining a routine since humans are creatures of habit, I will try to minimize any changes in the syllabus throughout the year. However, I do reserve the right to change the syllabus in order to better serve the needs of the class. If any changes are to occur, students will be notified and changes will be discussed.

**Pilot of New Textbooks 2017-2018**

Starting September 11, students in all English classes will begin a brand-new curriculum and textbook for the 1st quarter, and then another new curriculum and textbook for 2nd quarter. As with testing any new product, there will be some 'bumps along the road'; please be patient as we go through this process. Being an experienced educator and working with other professionals who are experienced in curriculum, any problems should be minimal; and in fact, these programs should enhance the learning experience of the student. If you have any further questions, please contact me.