



English 1

Period 5, 6 & 7

Mrs. Rebecca Lahey-Scott

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a yearlong class required for all students, the focus of which is the Human Experience. This class aims to

develop students' writing, reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. Students will be expected to write essays, read and discuss literature, and work cooperatively with their peers.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

It is expected that each student comes to class prepared for that day's lesson and is engaged to learn, while being respectful of his/her teacher and classmates.

Respect

It is important that everyone respects themselves, their peers and their teacher. We all have opinions to contribute. Support each other and listen while others are talking. Appreciate the different perspectives that everyone can bring to discussions. Always be kind and considerate to others.

Participate

A good portion of the English curriculum requires discussion. Therefore, everyone must participate and give valid input during class activities. Everyone is not going to have the same opinion, and that is okay. It is important to have different opinions, and we must appreciate and learn from all sorts of perspectives.

Try Your Best

Everyone makes mistakes. This is why revising and editing are part of the English curriculum. However, the most important thing is to try your best and learn from your past mistakes. We will grow as readers and writers throughout the year, but in order to do that we must put in our best effort.

Questions

Questions are always encouraged during class. Do not be afraid to ask. Your classmates may have the same questions that you do. It is important that I address your concerns in order for us all to learn. However, keep your questions relevant to the situation to respect your classmates' and your teacher's time.

Food/Drinks/Bathrooms

Hydration is very important! You may bring water into the classroom. Because of the school's Peanut-Aware Policy, students should not bring food into the classroom. If you have to use the bathroom during class, just ask.

Technology

Phones should not be used during class for any reason. If a phone is seen out or being used by a student during class, it will be taken to the office.

Late Work

Every day that an assignment is late, 1% of the grade will be dropped from the original worth of the assignment. It is important that you complete your work on-time. In the future, your teachers and bosses may not accept work that is turned in late. Get into the habit of turning assignments in on-time right now!

Retake Policy:

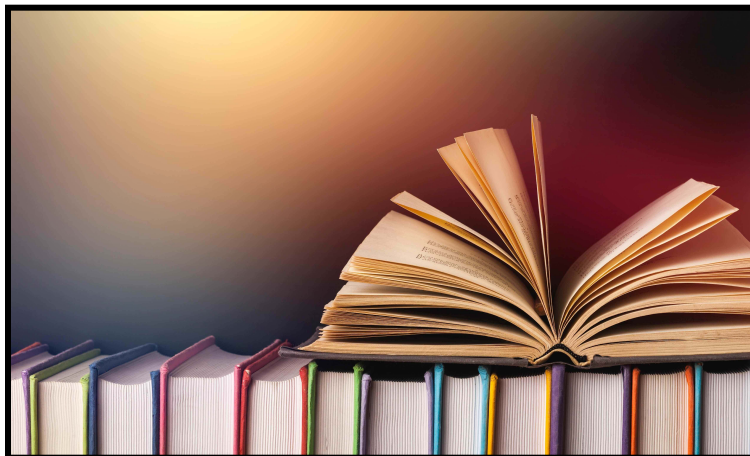
Students are allowed to retake or revise Final Writing/Presentation Assignments/Test **one time**, if they are unhappy with their grade. However, the worth of the score can only reach 90%.

Plagiarism and Cheating

You would be upset if someone stole your ideas and used them as their own, so do not do it to someone else. Plagiarism and cheating is completely unacceptable. If you do, you will have a mandatory meeting with myself and your parents about your actions. Afterwards, you are required to redo and hand-write the assignment for partial grade. **JUST DON'T DO IT.**

Mindfulness on Wednesdays:

Due to the positive and beneficial mental health learning unit from 8th grade literacy, we will be implementing some mindfulness strategies and activities during one Wednesday a month. These strategies and activities will be taken directly from students' research last year. This could include: coloring, rest, exercise, reading, being outside, playing board games, etc.



Units

Unit 1: Short Stories - the Human Experience

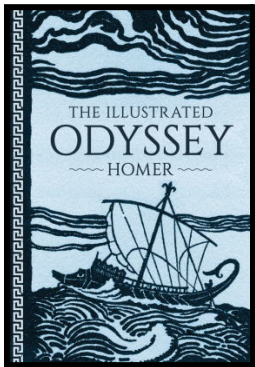
- Students will read different short stories and then practice writing different types of essays based on their own thoughts and opinions on the story.
 - Essay Types that will be included throughout the unit are: argumentative, persuasive and narrative.

Unit 2: Literature Circles - Community

- Students will be split into groups based on their interests for a certain novel. Students will work on reading comprehension and discussion skills as they read, focusing on the theme of community. Students will be assessed on a Theme Essay based on their novel.
 - Books included in the unit: Piecing Me Together, Enduring Freedom, Little Fires Everywhere, How to Become a Planet, All American Boys, the Serpent King and Winger.

Unit 3: *Of Mice and Men* - Friendship

- Students will read John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* together during class, exploring the themes of friendship and decision making.



Unit 4: *the Odyssey* - the Epic Hero

- Students will explore the idea of heroes as the class reads Homer's epic poem *the Odyssey*. Throughout the unit, students will be engaged in various activities to assess understanding of the text and its connection to today.
 - Students will complete a Definition Essay at the end of the unit determining the term hero and what constitutes being a hero in the epic, superhero story and real life.

Unit 5: *Romeo and Juliet* - Love and Fate

- Students will be exposed to and act out William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. They will discuss and explore the themes of love and fate throughout the play and ultimately decide who is most responsible for the tragic outcomes of the characters.
- Students will compare and contrast the play versus Baz Luhrman's movie versus Steven Sondheim's *West Side Story*.

Students will explain what they would personally do differently if they were directing this classic tale.

