



Jackson Memorial High School
English Department

Course Title: Honors English 1 / STEM (0100)

Room: 113 - Memorial Building

Teacher(s): Mr. Pienkowski - japienkowski@jacksonsd.org

Office Hours: by appointment during the Common Period

Required Materials

- a. Charged Chromebook
- b. A 3-ring binder or a Spiral Notebook and Folder
- c. Writing utensil (pen or pencil)
- d. Positive attitude and an open mind

Cell Phones

- a. Cell phones will be placed in the pocket holder in the front of the classroom at the beginning of class and can be picked up at the end of class
- b. Focus, engagement, and participation are crucial to your success in this course

Grading

The English Department requires that the following grading policy be implemented:

- a. Participation 10% (*includes attendance*)
- b. Homework 25% (*includes classwork*)
- c. Assessment 65% (*includes tests, quizzes, projects, & essays*)

Participation

Participation is necessary to be successful in this course

- a. Absent students have the option to make up missed work within **two** days of the absence if you have a Doctor's note
 - i. All other absences are **not excused** and your absence and work can be made up during the Common Period.
- b. Being prepared counts for participation as well

Homework

- a. Students will receive credit for completing and contributing to classroom activities
- b. Homework is expected to be completed and turned in on its due date.
- c. Homework may include reading assignments and/or online textbook assignments.

Assessment: Tests, Quizzes, Essays, and Projects

- a. Quizzes will be announced and unannounced; it is best always to be prepared.
- b. Tests will be announced at least **two** days before the day students will be required to take them. If you are absent on test day, you must take the test upon return.
- c. School policy states that you have **five** days to make up missed tests. Please do not wait that long.
- d. Late projects and/or essays **will not** be accepted.

Attendance

- a. You are only allowed **eight** unexcused absences per semester in each class. If you exceed the allotted absences, you may be denied credit regardless of the grade that you may receive.
- b. You are responsible for seeing me to see what assignments were missed during your absence.

Class Dismissal

- a. I ask that you remain seated and on task until we dismiss you for the day.
- b. I decide when the class is over.
- c. If you are standing, you are staying.

Restroom Policy

- a. You may use the restroom before or after a lesson or a lecture, but **PLEASE** do not interrupt the class in the middle of a lesson because you have to go to the bathroom. Please ask to leave the room at an appropriate time. Using your pass is a privilege that will be suspended if misused and/or abused.

Reading / Independent Reading

- a. We will be covering the following:
 - i. *Freedom Writers Diary*
 1. Consisting of powerful entries from the students' diaries and a narrative text by Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is an unforgettable story of how hard work, courage, and determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students. **There is strong language, sexual topics, and racial slurs and tones throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*
 - ii. *Of Mice and Men*
 1. John Steinbeck wrote this novella. Published in 1937, it narrates the experiences of George Milton and Lennie Small. These two displaced migrant ranch workers moved from place to place in California, searching for new job opportunities during the Great Depression in the United States. **There is strong language, sexual topics, and racial slurs and tones throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*

iii. *Romeo and Juliet*

1. This Shakespearean play is about a young hero and heroine whose families, the Montagues and the Capulets, respectively, are ferocious enemies. Romeo and Juliet's passionate star-crossed love leads to their demise, ultimately pacifying the relationship between their families. **There is violence and some sensuality and powerful themes. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*

iv. *Great Expectations*

1. In an overgrown churchyard, a grizzled convict springs upon an orphan named Pip. The convict terrifies the young boy and threatens to kill him unless Pip helps further his escape. Later, Pip finds himself in the ruined garden, where he meets the bitter and crazy Miss Havisham and her foster child Estella, with whom he immediately falls in love. There is violence and some sensuality and powerful themes.

v. *Lord of the Flies*

1. William Golding's 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies* tells the story of young boys living alone on a deserted island. They develop rules and a system of organization, but without adults to serve as a civilizing impulse, the children eventually become violent and brutal. There is violence and some sensuality and powerful themes.

vi. *The Scarlet Letter*

1. Set in the Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1642 to 1649, the novel tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter with a man to whom she is not married and then struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. **There is violence and some sensuality and powerful themes.

Writing

- a. Writing is also an essential life skill: my job is to teach you how to become a better writer. Formal essays that count as tests require the following:
 - On-time and complete the day that it is due
 - Typed - Double spaced
 - Times New Roman Font (size 12)
 - Occasionally multiple drafts
 - A proper heading

Classroom Rules: Please adhere to the following rules:

- a. Be prepared and ready to work when you arrive, and respect yourself and each other
- b. Be in your seat when the bell rings, and follow directions the **first** time
- c. Refrain from using language that will embarrass you, your parents, or me

Name: _____

Period: _____

This, like any other semester, is very important. Your education is the most important; as a result, I expect a lot from my students. The goals I have set for you are attainable with dedication and hard work. Everything that I do in class is relevant to your success. An essential idea to remember is that you have the power; power over your grades and your future. Please remember that **I do not give grades – you earn them!**

MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS YOUR TEACHER:

- a. To treat you with respect and care as an individual
- b. To provide you with an orderly classroom environment
- c. To provide the necessary discipline
- d. To provide appropriate motivation
- e. To teach the required content

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS MY STUDENT:

- a. Treat your classmates and me with respect and care as individuals
- b. To attend class regularly
- c. To be cooperative and not disruptive
- d. To study hard and complete the work
- e. To learn and master the required content

I am looking forward to having this class together. We can come together as adults and have a positive experience. Please sign this paper and make the packet the first page of your English binder. Good luck to you this semester in this class and all of your other classes.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Mr. Pienkowski

9-05-2024