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English Department  
Council Rock High School South  
English 11 Syllabus (2018-2019)

In this class you will be constantly working on the marketable skills of writing, reading, and critical thinking, as well as developing strategies for decision making, time management and studying. By working together I hope this can be one of the best English classes you've ever had. Beyond that, I hope to help you develop your success as a student and as an individual. It is my goal to make this year challenging as well as interesting and worthwhile. The three keys to success in this class (as well as in many other facets of life) are **intellectual curiosity**, **effort** and **discipline**.

**Be prepared, organized, receptive, and enthusiastic, and so will I!**

**Seek to better yourself each day. I am here to help you achieve your best.**

### **Course Description**

This full-year, college preparatory course is designed to assist students in continuing their growth in critical reading, writing, listening, speaking, and research skills. Literature includes many novels, plays, non-fiction, selected short stories and poetry. Much of the reading is done independently. Composition work, including both in-class and out-of-class papers, focuses primarily on expository writing related to the literature and non-fiction studied. These compositions include short papers and extended five-paragraph essays. Vocabulary is assigned and tested regularly; there is some PSAT and SAT practice. Grammar, usage, sentence structure, paragraph development, and mechanics are reviewed or taught as needed. Students are assessed on the basis of objective and subjective tests, quizzes, writing assignments and homework.

### **Curriculum**

I reserve the right to alter this slightly according to class needs and requirements.

**Texts/Materials/ Literature: (listed in the order studied) See Web site for pictures of books.**

Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible* (ISBN 9780142437339)\*  
Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby* (ISBN 9780743273565)\*  
Shakespeare, William. *Othello* (FOLGER Edition ISBN 9781501146299)\*  
Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air* (ISBN 9780385494786)\*  
Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men* (ISBN 9780140177398)\*  
Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire* (ISBN 9780811216029)\*  
Short stories (American authors)  
Poetry (American authors)

**\*It is best to purchase these books so that you are able to write in them. You may buy them wherever you like, but it would be best if we all have the same editions. To make it easier, The Newtown Bookstore (2835 S. Eagle Rd. Newtown, PA 18940) will have them in stock for you. Be sure to give my name at the desk to receive a discount.**

### **Composition**

- A. Two literature-based, in-class essays (minimum)
- B. Two shorter pieces to include informational, persuasive, argumentative and an optional narrative essay (portfolio essays included)
- C. Portfolio (mandatory)

1. Introductory Portfolio Letter
2. Mid Year Reflection (informal)
3. Final Reflective Essay

### **Vocabulary**

Vocabulary Level F (best to purchase this workbook for \$12; check made payable to CRHSS Activities Fund: English Department; student's name must be written clearly in the memo line). Many weeks there will be a vocabulary quiz (generally every other week). Vocabulary will be reinforced through composition. You can earn bonus points for finding vocabulary words in your daily reading (school assignments, books, newspapers, magazines, etc.) Each sentence you find with a vocabulary word in it must be either copied by hand or photocopied; the name of the author and source must be recorded. I shall periodically ask you for your list of vocabulary words found in outside sources and record your bonus points (usually two weeks before the end of the marking period). There is a limit of fifteen bonus points per marking period for this activity.

### **Grammar**

Grammar emphasis is on usage and mechanics. We shall review several sections of the textbook and relate them to our writing assignments. There will be a focus on sentence structure, elements of style, and conventions of writing. Periodical grammar quizzes will reinforce your knowledge base.

### **Test Preparation**

Practice exercises for the SAT will be reviewed in class.

A note to your parents from administration: Council Rock School District strongly encourages parents to survey the outstanding collection of challenging literature contained within our program. Much of the content presents important and complex ideas that encourage critical thinking. Any connection discussed in class is made that much stronger by the conversation and connections that are made at home. We invite you to discuss any of the elements of our courses with your child's teacher.

### **Guidelines for Success**

#### **What you will need every day:**

1. Notebook in which you can take notes, keep handouts, etc. A 3-ring binder is best (go for 1"-1.5").
2. A pen or pencil and paper plus a red pen and several highlighters.
3. Books: Please check my Web site calendar and bring the correct book (s) needed for the lesson that day.
4. USB drive for backup
5. A cooperative attitude.

#### **What you should do:**

1. Complete all assignments and turn them in on time.
2. Write down in your notes anything I emphasize during a lecture and especially anything I put on the traditional board or on the white board.
3. Reach out for help. If you are having difficulty in this class, it is your responsibility to seek help. My clinic schedule for the week is posted on the board behind my desk. Please check it each week; feel free to take a picture of it, too. I am almost always after school in room 280 until 3 PM (or later), unless otherwise noted on the board. You can also request an appointment at another time if you need it. You can e-mail me at any time (smillerhosey@crsd.org). I usually respond to e-mail Monday through Friday up to 11 PM; I have no set times during the weekend, but I will get back to you as soon as possible. Check my Web site

www.millerhosey.com for other help/information. I answer every email from students and parents; if I have not responded, that means I have not seen it.

4. Participate in class. There will be many opportunities to respond to writing and reading in the class. Take advantage of this. I am very observant. I will know if you are not engaged. Pay attention. Listen. Learn.
5. Keep your handouts. I make one copy per student. Period. If you lose the paperwork, you will need to photocopy a friend's.
6. Make sure your homework is stamped. I always stamp papers with the date submitted. If there are any disputed grades later, the stamp will be proof of work submitted on time.

#### **Additional ways to be successful in this class:**

1. Keep in mind the following **LIFE** truths at all times:
  - a. Effort is often rewarded with success.
  - b. Effort is not always rewarded with success.
  - c. Failure in one instance does not mean inability to succeed in anything else.
  - d. Failure in one try does not mean perpetual failure.
  - e. The better the preparation, the more likely the success.
  - f. Outcomes are rarely guaranteed.
2. **REVIEW** class notes/topics every night at home. Quiz yourself, study large ideas, explain a concept to a parent or sibling—make studying and reviewing as much a part of your day as breathing.
3. Be **RESPONSIBLE** for your own learning. This is your class, not your parents' or your teachers'. **YOU** need to study consistently, to apply your best effort, to review difficult concepts, to approach your teachers for help, and to pay close attention in class. These responsibilities are yours and yours alone.
4. Apply your best **EFFORT** at all times and in all assignments. Do not complete any work in a slipshod manner or become lax with your preparation. The course is only 9900 minutes of your life (less than seven full days), so maximize your learning at all times.
5. Seek **HELP** from the teacher, your parents, internet resources, and other options when needed. Unsure of a word when you are reading? Take the time to stop and examine the context; then, look up the definition if you still do not know. Become **INDEPENDENT** in your problem solving by seeking answers.

#### **Attendance**

- Regular attendance is one of the best ways to succeed in this class; however, if you are absent, you are to check the Web site for assignments and what we did while you were gone and ask your classmates for further information and interpretation of notes and assignments. Check the HAC to see if you missed any graded assignments. Come to me only as a last resort for this type of information. Do NOT ask if we did anything while you were out; I assure you we did!
- **Homework/assignments** that are due during an absence are due the **DAY YOU RETURN** to be considered on time.
- **Essays due while you are absent must be submitted electronically on the day due and a hard copy submitted the day you return to be considered on time.**
- The general rule is that you have five school days from the date of a test/quiz to make up the assessment missed while you were absent. An exception to this is vocabulary quizzes, which are given most Fridays. If you are present on Friday, regardless of whether you were out during that

week, you will be expected to take the quiz. Serious long-term illness/absence will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

### Late Work

- **Any homework assignment submitted late will be worth only 50%. (Keep in mind a 50% is much better than 0%).** Make every effort to be prompt. *Computer emergencies, although sometimes unavoidable, are not excuses for late work.* Longer assignments, when announced, are penalized at one letter grade per day late.
- All late work will be accepted at teacher's discretion. Turning in assignments late is not a right.
  - **No late work is accepted *once an assignment has been reviewed in class.***

### Makeup Work

- You are welcome to make up work during your lunch, but you must make arrangements with me prior to the time you want to work so that you do not disturb the class in session.
- You may NOT make up work during class.
  - **All assessments must be made up within FIVE school days of returning after an absence.** Contact and arrangements with me must be made within the five-day span if you are unable to make up assessments in that time frame. I will make determinations as to feasibility when necessary. Failure to make up work within five days will result in a **ZERO** for the assessment.
  - Per school policy, any student absent in excess of TWENTY (20) school days may be denied credit for the course.

### Grading

Grades are based on points earned versus the total points possible. **I do not round up; please do not ask.** I offer many opportunities for earning extra points; take advantage of this whenever possible. For a final grade, I add the four marking periods and divide by four; therefore, do not ever give up in this class. Every point you earn helps you to succeed.

### Rules

1. **All South and school district rules will be followed in this class.**
2. If you bring food/drink to class, clean up after yourself.
3. Be in your seat and ready to begin when the bell rings. All late arrivals will be recorded; you get two "free" lates each marking period (within one minute of the bell). The third and subsequent late arrivals will result in detention (1 minute late =10 minutes of detention, 2 minutes late =20 minutes detention, etc.). If you are late but have a pass, come in quickly and quietly and give me your late pass.
4. All materials from other classes must be put away. I am very sensitive about this; I work very hard to make the class interesting and fun while we learn, and I refuse to be ignored while you are doing other work. All materials for this class should be out and/or readily available.
5. **NO PHONE USE** during class. If there is a personal emergency, please let me know. Phones need to be placed in the slot assigned to you or on a charger. Electronics may be confiscated and turned in to the grade-level principal if they become an issue.
6. Cheating will not be tolerated. Many efforts will be made to thwart any attempts; do not try your luck. Penalties will be swift and severe.
7. Be polite. It will get you much farther in life than being rude.

**Our classroom is centered on key principles that guide our daily work and the rules that enable us to maximize our learning:**

- **Intellectual curiosity:** We always try our best to learn more.
  - **Effort:** We apply maximum effort and attention to our work.
  - **Discipline:** We remain focused and persevere through obstacles.
  - **Time management:** We maximize each day, both in and out of school.
1. Please use the **restroom** between classes or during lunch so as not to miss any work during class and not to disrupt the class. If you need to use the restroom at the beginning of class, be sure to check in with me first and then leave. If you absolutely need to use the restroom during class, please ask. Leave your phone on the desk at the door and sign out. ASK before leaving the room for any reason. To sign out, find your name in the hall pass book near the door. Write down the date of the pass in the column next to your name. Use a new column for each pass.
  2. Quietly **remain in your seat** until the bell rings to end class. Do not start packing your belongings until instructed to do so, and do not leave your seat. It is very impolite to pack early.
  3. Keep your desk and the area around it **clean**.
  4. Follow **directions** the first time they are given; remain on-task at all times. Work in class is assigned for your benefit and is thus mandatory.
  5. During a **TEST** period, any talking or using phones while tests are out is assumed to be academic dishonesty and will result in a ZERO on the test for those talking and/or using phones. Talking after you have finished the test but while others still have their exams is still considered academic dishonesty; the same penalty applies. Raise your hand if you have a question.
  6. Put forth your best **effort** in everything you do. *Typing all assignments is strongly recommended.*
  7. Be **prompt, prepared, and polite** at all times.