

Mrs. Matheney

Honors English II

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Course Description

Honors English II emphasizes the four language arts - reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Exposure to various types of advanced literature and the emphasis of developing written expression are stressed. The course includes a review of the Tennessee Academic Standards, but Honors students will be expected to exceed those standards. In Honors English, assignments will be given to prepare students for future Honors and AP exams. Honors English students will be given additional advanced literature and vocabulary and will be expected to produce excellent and advanced compositions and research-based writing that extends beyond the course curriculum. Please also refer to the additional requirements listed below for Honors English II, which are set forth by Board Policy 4.600:

Honors Course Requirements

Honors courses will substantially exceed the content standards, learning expectations, and performance indicators approved by the State Board of Education. Teachers of honors courses will model instructional approaches that facilitate maximum interchange of ideas among students: independent study, self-directed research and learning, and appropriate use of technology. All honors courses must include multiple assessments exemplifying coursework (such as short answer, constructed-response prompts, performance-based tasks, open-ended questions, essays, original or creative interpretations, authentic products, portfolios, and analytical writing). Additionally, an honors course shall include these five (5) components:

- Extended reading assignments that connect with the specified curriculum.
- Research-based writing assignments that address and extend the course curriculum.
- Open-ended investigations in which the student selects the questions and designs the research.
- o Examples of mode include narrative, descriptive, persuasive, expository, and expressive.
- o Examples of purpose include to inform, entertain, and persuade.
- o Examples of style include formal, informal, literary, analytical, and technical
- Extensive opportunities for problem solving experiences through imagination, critical analysis, and application.
- Job shadowing experiences with presentations which connect class study to the world of work.

“Honors” coursework must explicitly include the above assurances with students’ syllabi of specific honors coursework so that the students can be better informed of the higher expectations of learning and performance when choosing their high school coursework.

Assignments

- Maintain an appropriate English binder with class notes, homework, and Independent Reading Logs
- Homework and reading will be assigned on most weeknights and weekends. Please plan your time accordingly.
- If you must be absent for illness or emergency, you are responsible for arranging to make up the work. See me outside of class time for your assignments. You will have time equal to the number of days absent to complete your work. If you arrange to make up a test, you will need to appear as scheduled, for you will not have another opportunity to take the test. If you are absent on a test day, be prepared to take the test the day you return, and if you return to class on a test day, you are expected to take the test unless we have made other arrangements before class time.

Novels

- *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (if time permits)
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Writing Assignments

- Literary Analysis
- Research Paper (MLA format)
- Argumentative Essay
- Expository Essay
- Narrative

Grading Policy

- Tests = 30%
- Quizzes= 40%
- Homework= 20%
- Discussion/Participation = 10%

Class Rules

1. Be on time and on task EACH day. **#nofreedays**
2. Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself. **#benice**

3. Be responsible for your own learning. **#beprepared #workhard #nocheating**
4. Clean up after yourself. **#notyourmom**
5. Keep all personal electronics put away. **#onlywithpermission**

How Can I Get an A in this class?

DON'T WAIT!!! To get an A in this class, you need to study hard, receive at least a 93 average on essays, homework, quizzes, and tests. You should also participate fully in class. You need to start doing this from day one! Don't wait!

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me at any time. You can reach me by email at Brienne.matheney@chestercountyschools.org or by phone at 731-989-8125. I am also available to meet most days before and after school.

Final Thoughts

Remember that this is an HONORS class. Expectations will be higher. The class will move fast. You will work hard. You will struggle. You will OVERCOME. Most of your success in this class depends on your willingness to push yourself academically. My goal is that you will leave my class appreciating all the success that hard work and commitment will bring you. I am looking forward to a great year!