English 11R Honors

Mrs. Mason

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English 11 R Honors Course Overview

English 11RH is a full-year course in American Literature designed to continue fostering the independent learning skills characteristic of the honors' student. Coincidentally, the course enables students to meet the English requirement for a Regents' diploma as it culminates in the Comprehensive Regents’ Examination in English. The format for this exam consists of one, three-hour session in which students demonstrate their ability to use language effectively for a variety of purposes.

The content of the course includes a survey of American Literature. Students will also have opportunities to study specific authors in depth. There will be reading assignments that will cover literature written prior to the 20th century. A study of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, written in the 1950s but set almost 300 years earlier, will enable students to examine how a modern writer finds relevance in our country's past. There will also be a focus on the literature of the 20th century. Students will consider how these works echo America's past while expressing the issues, problems, hopes, and dreams of "modern" America.

While learning about the literature of our heritage, students will also engage in intensive work in critical thinking, reading, and writing. They will refine vocabulary, listening, and speaking skills. A high degree of independent learning is expected of the honors' student at the 11th grade level. Students will work to become comfortable with increasing amounts of self-direction and self- assessment and an accelerated pace.

Texts for Potential Use in English 11RH

Primary Text: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, W. W. Norton, 2003. The text is a chronological anthology of American Literature.

Novels: *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain

*The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck

*Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury

*The Known World*, by Edward P. Jones

Plays: *Othello*, by William Shakespeare

*The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller

Films: From Discovery – *The Salem Witch Trials*

Clips from *The Crucible*

Documentary on Emily Dickinson

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1) Ring Binder with dividers-this will allow you the flexibility to rearrange notes and entries. Plan on the following sections:

Class Notes - This is not a lecture course, but you will need to take notes from time to time. Coincidentally, we will review a variety of note taking strategies and formats.

Reading Responses - Expect to use this section regularly. It will include both teacher-directed and personal responses to reading. Some entries will be required and, therefore, collected and graded (such as annotations).

Writing Process- Use this section for in-class writing activities and strategies. (Although many of you will use word processors or computers for your papers, always print out drafts and store them in a folder that will be filed in class for in- class revision and editing work.)

Vocabulary Study - At times you will be given specific lists for study of words taken from the literature. At other times, you will be responsible for recording and learning the meanings of any words unfamiliar to you.

Grammar and Punctuation - This section will be used for notes to help you avoid language problems that seem to be troublesome for the class as a whole. In addition, information that will assist you with individual language problems can be recorded.

Suggested Additional Supplies: Post-It Notes Highlighter

Pens/Pencils Planner

Loose-leaf paper

English 11 R Honors Course Expectations

Behavior: As with the academic expectations of an honors’ student, behavior that is mature and exemplary is also a fundamental requirement of any participant in an honors’ curriculum. Good attendance, promptness, preparedness, and attentiveness are behaviors that will stand each honor’s student in good stead. However, if necessary, infractions will be dealt with according to policies outlined in the student handbook.

Homework Assignments: These will be listed on the back board and on my website. Assignments will be further explained, if necessary, in class. Budget your time so that you meet the deadlines. Late papers will be assessed a 10 point penalty per day. Papers turned in 10 days late will, therefore, receive no credit. Honors students do not turn in late work!!! Unusual circumstances will require a written excuse from a parent along with a firm completion date. Often you will find yourself working on a long-term assignment in tandem with several shorter assignments. Organized and independent study skills are essential to success. All written work must be completed in blue or black ink on 8 ½ x 11-inch paper with no ragged edges.

Classwork: Much of the time, I will serve as facilitator as you learn from one another. Active participation – and some risk-taking – is essential in order to foster independence. Preparation is your best tool.

Evaluation: Periodic in-class and after-school conferences with me will provide feedback on specific tasks. Peer evaluation will also give you outside input, but eventually, it will be beneficial to you to become your own best critic. Interim reports will be sent every 5 weeks as a benchmark only of your current status – remember 5 week grades are not permanent. Grades for each 10-week marking period will be based on class participation, classroom assignments, completion of homework assignments, projects, performance on quizzes and tests, reading, writing, speaking, and listening assignments.

The final grade for the course will be based on an average of the 4 quarter grades. To receive credit for the course, the course grade must be 65 or better. To receive Regents’ credit, both the final grade and the Regents’ exam grade must be 65 or better.

Grading Policies:

## Class Work and Participation: 20%

This includes class work such as in-class assignments and in-class projects. Students should be prepared for class each day. You are expected to bring the supplies listed above each day – YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO TO YOUR LOCKER FOR FORGOTTEN ITEMS OR ASSIGNMENTS. You will also be encouraged to participate in large and small group discussions on a daily basis.

## Exams and Essays: 25%

Reading and Writing Projects: 25%

This includes individual and group projects that will be assigned throughout the year.

## Quizzes: 20%

Homework: 10%

Plagiarism

* Plagiarism is “an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author” (Dictionary.com).
* Plagiarism will be punished with a disciplinary referral and a zero for the assignment. If written up for plagiarism, a student jeopardizes induction into the National Honor Society and/or is subject to removal from National Honor Society.

Examples of plagiarism include:

* Copying from another student during a test, quiz, or a homework assignment, with or without his/her permission
* Taking ideas from another source and not giving appropriate credit via Works Cited page
* Paraphrasing the words of another, without due credit given, even if you change a few words
* Submitting a paper, or part of a paper, written by someone else
* Submitting a paper taken from another student
* Allowing another person to do your work and handing that work in under your own name
* Turning in identical or similar papers for credit in more than one class without permission from the teachers
* Copying an essay directly from an Internet source, in whole or in part, is plagiarism and will be subject to the consequences

Conferences/Make-Up Sessions: My room (1404) is not always free when I am, so please schedule sessions ahead of time. Do like-wise for after-school sessions, as I sometimes have meetings. Generally, I am available from 2:25 to 3:00. Please do not hesitate to seek help when needed!

*Please review these expectations with your parent or guardian, sign and return to me by Friday, September \_\_\_\_\_ (A copy will be returned to you for your reference.)*

Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_