

English 10 2010-2011: Course Guidelines and Expectations

Miss Webber/Room 202

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In this year-long English course you will use a variety of sources to enhance your reading, writing and thinking skills. This class will build upon the skills acquired in ninth grade English to analyze not only literature, but also many other forms of communication. The literature will be mainly British-based including at least one of Shakespeare's many plays and one novel by George Orwell. There will also be a significant amount of both formal and informal writing completed throughout the year including a research paper, thesis paper, an analysis journal and a novella. This class carries quite a heavy but reasonable workload and, because of this, dedication and motivation are requirements for success in this course.

Course Materials:

Every day you will need to bring:

- ★ A pen or pencil
- ★ The required reading book or materials
- ★ Your class binder and your agenda
- ★ **Please Note:** I will not give you my materials – if you are unprepared for class then that is your problem to fix, not mine. You must ask a friend or take the pass to your locker. ☺

Class Binder:

- ★ It is your responsibility to bring a binder each day and maintain it in a neat and orderly manner. You may organize your binder in any manner that works for you but be aware that there will be a cumulative final at the end of the year so you will need to save all notes and any handouts or homework assignments that will help you study for the final exam.
- ★ The final cumulative exam will consist of at least the following requirements:
 - ✓ Thesis Essay: You will need to use evidence from three sources to support your thesis statement. The evidence must be properly cited using in-text and parenthetical citations that clearly point to a source on your properly formatted Works Cited page.
 - ✓ Literary Terms: You will need to define, identify and create examples of the sixty-eight literary terms we will work with throughout the year.
 - ✓ Shakespeare Analysis: You will analyze a passage consisting of twenty-five to thirty lines from one of Shakespeare's plays to determine what is being said and what it means.

Grading/Work Policies

Attendance/Absences/Make-up work:

- ★ If you **MUST** miss class due to illness or other circumstances beyond your control, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to find out which assignments you missed and to get all necessary handouts or notes **BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS PERIOD.**
- ★ If an assignment is due when you are absent, the due date does not change for the following two reasons: you need to come see me and you have a syllabus to reference for due dates.
- ★ If you will not be in class the day an assignment is due, give it to a friend who can turn it in for you or e-mail it to me at jwebber@sad55.org

Deadlines: Deadlines are not flexible in this classroom. Only extreme extenuating circumstances will cause deadlines to be altered.

Late Work: I will accept late work for a penalty. The penalty is five points off the top of your grade for *each day* an assignment is late, *including weekends and vacations*. After ten days the assignment can still be passed in for half credit until the end of the quarter.

NOTE: When you have passed something in late and received a low grade due to the late penalty, you may then revise the assignment based on the suggestions I wrote during the grading process and pass it back in with the rubric and the original copy. If I feel you have put in the required effort to make the assignment the best it can be, I will re-grade it and revise the grade in my grade book. If, however, you make only a token effort, fixing as few errors as possible, I will not re-grade and the low grade will remain. The amount of effort you put into your work will reflect the amount of effort I spend in grading it.

Syllabus: You will receive a monthly syllabus which will detail what we will do in class each day and what is due for homework each day. Assignments will also be posted on the board as well as online. It is your responsibility to write your assignments in your agenda and check your syllabus or my web page for assignments and due dates.

Rubrics: Every major assignment will have an attached rubric which will explain how the assignment will be graded.

After School Hours: I generally will not stay later than 3:30 but if you want to stay late to receive extra help I will need advance notification.

Written Work: It is my expectation that you will proofread your written work. This means more than simply using the spell check on your computer. If I receive an assignment with more than three obvious errors in MUGS (Mechanics, Usage, Grammar, Spelling), I will pass it back. This will be recorded in my grade book as “PFD” meaning I gave it back to you to proofread and revise. If I do not get the assignment back from you in a timely manner that PFD will turn into “MI” meaning the assignment is missing and counts as a zero. 😊

Proofreading: I am always available to proofread your work for you – *please* come see me with rough drafts and I will gladly help you proofread and revise assignments for this class as well as any other. The only exception to this is that I will NOT proofread an assignment on the day it is due – you must see me *before* a final draft is due. You must use the time I give in class previous to the due date or you must make an appointment for my planning period or after school. If you approach me with a paper on the day it is due I will turn you away unless you are passing it in – I will not proofread it.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Don’t do it.

Assignment Value: The amount of work we get done within a given quarter will determine the weight of each assignment. I will always let you know in advance of the end of the quarter what each assignment is worth.

Participation/Homework/Quizzes: Each day I will record your participation, homework or quiz grade. I will let you know what I need to see done each day to receive a grade for the day. Each of these daily grades will be averaged together at the end of the quarter and will create your final participation/homework/quiz grade to be averaged in with your other major assignments. Your participation/homework grade is determined in the following manner:

- ★ 100 = full participation in the lesson - engaged with work completed
- ★ 75 = somewhat engaged and on-task, work mostly done
- ★ 50 = half participation with work half completed
- ★ 25 = was present but did not participate or work was not completed
- ★ 0 = absent - can be replaced with a 100 if the student comes to see me about what was missed **before** the next class period
- ★ Quizzes will be graded individually

Extra credit: With the exception of Bonus Coupons which can be earned at various points throughout the year, there is no such thing as extra credit in this class. Do the required work on time and you won't need extra credit.

*If there are extenuating circumstances that may inhibit your ability to complete your work, please make me aware of them so we can arrange other options. **You MUST come to me before an assignment is due – an extenuating circumstance that pops up on the day an assignment is due will not be considered! Email is a wonderful tool to communicate with me, please use it!***

Classroom Survival Policies

Follow these policies and you will not be kicked out of class.

Language: Foul language of any type will not be tolerated. I expect your vocabulary to be appropriate when you are within this classroom or anywhere else on school grounds. You will be surprised at the sensitivity of my ears when it comes to foul language; I may not hear anything else you say during a private discussion, but I will hear the swear and I will kick you out.

Hand Raising: We will practice raising our hands in this class. We will not interrupt each other, speak while others are speaking, or yell out answers or comments, relevant or otherwise.

Preparedness: You will come to class prepared, meaning that you have all necessary materials for the day's lesson. It is *your* responsibility to come to this class prepared, it is *not* my responsibility to make sure you have all of your materials, nor is it my problem if you don't.

Late to Class: The door to this classroom will be closed and locked one minute after the bell has rung and the door will remain locked for fifteen minutes into the period. If during that time you arrive with a pass from wherever you were, you may enter and join the class, if you arrive without a pass, you have to go get one and come back. If you cannot obtain a pass because you were wasting time, perhaps walking your significant other to class or just loitering with your friends, you may sit in the green room for the remainder of the class period. The way to avoid all of this hassle is simply to arrive on time. This also means you may not leave the class during the first fifteen minutes unless you want to leave and not return for the remainder of class. Come to class prepared and use the bathroom during breaks and you shouldn't have any reason to leave.

Leaving the Classroom: If you need to leave after the first fifteen minutes, you do not need to ask to leave the classroom to go to your locker or to the bathroom. If you will only be gone for a few minutes, then simply take the pass with you and when you return, place the pass back in its home on the bookshelf. **Only one student may leave the room at a time and you must have the pass when you leave.** This means if the pass is gone, then you must wait for the pass to return in order to leave.

Seating: You may sit where you wish until you lose the privilege – I will then place you in assigned seats.

Dismissal from Class: The clock does NOT dismiss you – I dismiss you. This means that you will not pack up, stand up or line up to leave until I have given you the okay.

Technology Use: You may use your mp3 players with headphones while you are in class *only during the work periods and no one else should be able to hear your music.* Cell phones are not permitted unless they are being used for music purpose. Laptops are to be used for typing and research. If they are improperly used you will lose your laptop privileges in my classroom. If you use your laptop for music, set up a playlist in advance so you are not wasting time searching for the song you want to listen to. YouTube is not an appropriate source for music, if I see you on it during work sessions, I will confiscate your laptop for the remainder of the period and assign an infraction.

Substitute Teachers: It is my expectation that you will be on your best behavior when a sub is here in my absence. If I get a bad report from a substitute there will be unfortunate consequences for the entire class. Likewise, if I get a good report, there will be a reward for the entire class.

My Pet Peeve: Talking while others are talking. It is rude, disrespectful and nothing irritates me faster or more effectively. In essence, you are telling me or one of your classmates that what we are saying is not worth hearing and your conversation is more important. Well, newsflash here, but your conversations can wait until breaks, lunch or after school hours. When you are in this classroom you are here to participate in the scheduled activities and discussions. If you cannot do this respectfully, you may as well leave before I kick you out.

Consequences: If you violate any of the above policies, you will receive one warning before you will be asked to leave the classroom and head to the office. If you choose to leave, or if I ask you to leave, it is your responsibility get the work you missed.