

Syllabus and Guidelines

Instructor: Ms. Griffin

Office period(s): _____

Class time and location: _____

Course Description:

“...Through wide and deep reading of literature and literary nonfiction, ...students expand their literary and cultural knowledge and better understand references and images. ... High school students master the essential “rules” of standard written and spoken English and resolve usage issues by consulting style and usage guides. By writing and participating in a variety of conversations, they assert and defend claims and show what they know about a subject using appropriate examples and evidence” (BPSS ELA Standards).

This year, we will be reading and studying a variety of literature. We will also work on developing our writing skills in order to more easily and effectively communicate our ideas and beliefs. Be ready to ask questions and share your thoughts!

Required materials:

- Pencil/pen
- Hard copy of homework—already printed
- Any readings we are covering
- Notebook
- Optional: Highlighters, sticky notes

Expectations:

- Respect
 - The only way to expect respect is to offer it first. Respect is part of being a mature adult and communicating effectively.
- Ask
 - Confusion leads to frustration and frustration leads to anger. If you have a question or a concern, ask *before* you take it personally. Asking for clarification is crucial in effective communication.
- Listen
 - Always listen until the other person is finished talking *before* thinking of a response or arguing. The more information you take in before talking back, the more worth your words will have.
- Own it
 - Nobody can make your choices for you. If you get a good grade, own it as your success. If you mess up, own it as your mistake. The only way we can learn is by accepting the truth for what it is and growing from it. You are in charge of your own choices.

Class time vs Work time: Cell phones

When someone is teaching up front or we are in a large group activity, pay attention and engage. Things discussed in class will be included on exams. Class time is the best time to ask clarifying questions after you read on your own. Work time is your time; as long as you are not being disruptive, you may use your cellphone for music or research. However, cellphones must remain untouched during instruction time.

Absences/Extensions:

- As a rule, assignments are to be completed before class starts and will be collected during class.
- If you know you will be absent, ask me before or after class what you will miss AND get notes from another student. This is to be done BEFORE the absence. If you will not be able to complete an assignment on time (due to an absence or a life situation) you may approach me during work time and tell me the situation. We will discuss another option that will work for both of us.
- If we decide that an extension is necessary, you will have the responsibility of telling me the date which you will have your work done and you will not be able to turn in the work any later than the date you decide. You will be responsible to keep your own deadline.

Late Work

- If you know you cannot complete an assignment on time, ask for an extension beforehand. We will work to find a more manageable due date.
- If you neglect to get an extension or forget to do an assignment, you will be docked a letter grade each day it is past its due date.

Daily routine

- As soon as the bell rings, you should have your finished assignment(s) on your desk, a notebook, and your favorite pen/pencil. We will start at the bell.
- The first five minutes will be devoted to learning a literary term or grammar rule. The terms/rules will be quizzed periodically throughout the year. The quizzes will be cumulative.
- We will pack up 2 minutes before the final bell. I will not keep you late.

Grading Scale

92-100	A
83-91	B
74-82	C
65-73	D
64 -	F

Course Overlook

To Kill a Mockingbird, The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, Eleven by Archibald Macleish, *Fahrenheit 451, The Lottery, Antigone*, and other works.

We will be learning writing strategies and skills while working our way through pieces of literature. Our writing experience will lead into a research paper.

- Quarter 1
 - **Unit 1: Literature and Grammar**
 - *The Lottery*
 - *Fahrenheit 451*
 - **Unit 2: Mythology and Essay Structure**
 - *Antigone*
- Quarter 2
 - **Unit 3: Shakespeare and Intentional Language**
 - *Julius Caesar*
 - **Unit 4: Poetry**
 - *Eleven*
- Quarter 3
 - **Unit 5: Historic Literature and Communicating Complex Arguments**
 - *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Quarter 4
 - **Unit 6: Research Paper (or Speech?) and Independent Read**