English I Syllabus

Teacher: Tanner Long

Email: tannerj.long@cms.k12.nc.us

Course Description:

English 1 is the comprehensive study of various genres of literature from around the world including non-fiction (essays, articles, speeches), fiction (novels, short stories), drama (e.g. Shakespeare), and poetry (epics, lyrics). Students will be working toward increasing their comprehension and critical thinking skills by analyzing these literary works and effectively expressing their ideas in oral and written form. Students will also select a novel of choice for their independent reading which will be followed by a written assignment. English 1 also includes an in-depth study of vocabulary and grammatical conventions. Instruction follows the Common Core Standards as outlined by the North Carolina Department of Instruction.

At the conclusion of English 1, students will take the district's formative assessment.

Course Objectives –Students will:

1.Create a cohesive and safe learning environment that fosters academic risk-taking and creativity.

2.Use a variety of media to explain language and culture.

3.Examine argumentation and develop informed opinions.

4.Critically analyze, interpret, and evaluate texts.

5.Apply conventions of grammar and language usage.

Materials:

There will be a class set of Holt McDougal Literature Grade 9 books located in the classroom. A student may access the books on-line (TBA) or a student can see me to check out a book if needed.

Students will be expected to have:

* 2 ½ - 3 inch 3-ring binder with tabs and college ruled paper
* Pens and pencils
* 100 count 3x5 notescards on a spiral
* Optional materials: colored pencils, markers, scissors, and glue sticks.
* Basic composition notebook (not spiral bound)

Donations of tissue are greatly appreciated.

Tutoring:

Students who would like additional help on assignments or practice for tests may sign up for tutoring. If no student requests tutoring for the week, tutoring will be cancelled. Students need to sign up prior to the day of tutoring. Tutoring will be held Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 in room C204.

Classroom Norms and Expectations:

1.Students are expected to be in the classroom, seated, and ready to work when the bell rings.

2.Students are expected to come to class prepared having all necessary supplies (pencil/pen paper, binder, etc…) and having homework completed prior to class time

3.Students are expected to use the facilities (bathrooms, lockers, etc.) in between classes and during their lunches. Students will remain in class once the bell rings. If a student is late to class, he/she will be sent to lockout.

4.It’s expected that students turn in their own work - appropriate sources will be accurately cited and credited when applicable.

5.Students are expected to follow all the rules set forth in the CMS Code of Conduct, as well as the rules of Rocky River High School as determined by the administration. Students who violate any of the aforementioned rules will be subject to disciplinary action including warnings, parent contact, and academic referrals.

Grading and Late Work Policy

Grades for the course will be weighted as follows:

Class assignments: 30%

Tests and Projects: 40%

Quizzes: 20%

Homework: 10%

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NC Grading Scale:

A 100-93

B 92-85

C 84 - 77

D 76-70

F 69 and below

Keep in mind that a 7 point grading scale means that 10% of your grade (e.g. Homework) can be the difference between an “A” and a “C” (93–10 = 83), or a “C” and an “F”, so it’s essential that you take every assignment, however small, as seriously as the next.

Make – up Work

In accordance with CMS policy, students will have five (5) days following an absence to make up any missed work. It is the student’s responsibility to get the make-up assignments from the instructor, a peer, or the website. Students will receive progress reports at each mid-quarter point.