

Honors English 10

Revised 8/09

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to welcome you to your student's 2009-10 school year at Valley High School. I am looking forward to working with your student in their 10th Grade Honors English course.

Throughout the year, your student will have many opportunities to succeed in writing, reading, and perhaps more importantly, critical thinking. See the contract and the syllabus for more information.

In order to be sure that all students have the learning environment they deserve, please review the school behavior and attendance policies, found in the student handbook, with your student. Additionally, please make certain you and your student understand the specific classroom policies and expectations for my classroom, found on the following pages.

If your student carries a cell phone or music player, please ask them to be sure that it is off and invisible at all times while in our classroom otherwise they will be confiscated. I would ask you not to call them during class (and encourage them not to accept calls from others during class time) as this will lead to the phone's removal from your student's possession. Please call the office in an emergency and they will relay the message to the student. These important communication devices can be a considerable distraction in class. While it may seem obvious, in my experience, the students that perform well, get good grades, and learn the most in my courses are the students that are paying attention.

Required supplies for this class (due on Friday, August 28) are as follows:

1. 3 ring binder with 5 dividers
2. Loose-leaf paper (lots of it!)
3. Pencils/pens
4. Spiral notebook (8 1/2 x 11, college rule)
7. One disinfectant wipes or one hand sanitizer
6. Dictionary/Thesaurus (for home use)

There are several ways of contacting me. The method I prefer is email at mrmattsmith@comcast.net, largely because this will be checked daily. Also, you may want to stop by my web page at <http://mrmattsmith.com> where you can find information about what your student is learning and other helpful items. Secure access to grades for each student is available so each student, parent or guardian can track their progress. If you do not have internet access, you could send a note with your student or call at 345-9021 extension 82161. I check my voice mail usually no more than twice a week so your response might be delayed.

I welcome your support and urge you to communicate with me whenever you have a question or comment.

Respectfully,

Mr. Matt Smith

Honors English 10 Syllabus 2009-2010

Teacher: Matt Smith

Room: C-25

Email: mrmattsmith@comcast.net

Web site: <http://mrmattsmith.com>

Phone: 345-9021 extension 82161

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:00 or by appointment

Exam makeups are available Thursdays during lunch or by appointment

The district has developed standards for English 10 available on the APS web site. The students will be exposed to and expected to know information in the following strands:

STRAND I: READING PROCESS

STRAND II: READING ANALYSIS

STRAND III: EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE, WRITING

STRAND IV: EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE, SPEAKING

STRAND V: RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE, LISTENING AND VIEWING

STRAND VI: RESEARCH

A complete list of the standards for this course is available from the class web site or directly at <http://home.comcast.net/~msmith241/Eng10ps.pdf>

Required text: 1) McDougal Littell Literature.

Students will work on grammar/mechanics throughout the entire year. Students are required to read 2 assigned out-of-class novel over the course of the year.

FALL SEMESTER

Timed and writing process essay practice as well as personal narrative writing will occur often during the year. Assigned outside of class reading.

Film unit, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

Archetypes, *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

Short Story, Poetry and Nonfiction, integrated throughout the year. A number of short stories will be studied. Students will identify the elements of each story through discussions, tests, and essays. Students will read, study, discuss, and create a number of poems and songs. Students will be expected to analyze poetry in formal writing assignments. We will read a variety of essays, letters, etc.

WINTER BREAK READING: *East of Eden*

SPRING SEMESTER

Discussion/testing/writing over winter break reading leading into the

Utopia/Dystopia Unit:

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley. *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. *Anthem* by Ayn Rand.

The Bible as Literature Unit: This unit is designed to introduce students to the stories in the Bible as pieces of literature, not as religious rhetoric. We will study the elements, character, point

of view, style, tone, etc., of selected stories. It is important that students are exposed to some of the stories in the bible so that they can later understand archetypal images, etc. in many works of literature. This unit will be helpful for Honors 11, 12, and for the Advanced Placement exam and college English courses.

Shakespeare: *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*
Second semester assigned reading TBA.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to both this syllabus and the rules and expectations in order to create an optimal classroom environment.

Progress reports will be sent home periodically via mail about every four weeks. Be sure Valley has your correct mailing address, and if you don't receive the report, call the school for information.

Rules and Expectations

1. Be prompt and prepared.
2. Students are expected to remain in their seats in class. Hall passes will be given only in accordance with school policy.
3. Treat others and our classroom with respect, fairness, and consideration.
4. No cell phones, makeup, laser pointers, music playback devices (iPods, etc.), and any other items deemed intrusive are to be seen or heard in the classroom. These items will be confiscated and turned in to the office. If you carry a cell phone, make absolutely sure the ringer is off and it is invisible.
5. Additionally, all school policies must be followed. Be sure you are familiar with those rules. You will be held responsible for them.

Attendance Policy:

To have an absence be considered excused, you must 1) have a parent or guardian call the school attendance office within 24 hours of the absence, or, 2) have a valid Viking excuse.

Unexcused absences: No makeup work will be assigned or accepted.

Excused absences: Makeup work will be assigned before class, after class or during tutorial only. I do not give makeup work during class time. You have as many days to make up the work as you were excused.

Students are encouraged to exchange phone numbers with another trustworthy student in class so they can find out what they missed in class when they are unable to attend.

Students who arrive late should report to the sweep room.

Late Work Policy

Late work is **NOT** accepted in Pre-AP classes. A grade of zero will be given for any assignment not turned in the day it is due. If a student is absent the day a project is due, s/he must make arrangements for the assignment to be brought to the teacher at the time that it is due. You must make up a missed test within three class meeting times.

Heading your papers:

The following must be on all assignments turned in to me in the upper right hand corner: Name, class period and the date. *No name. No grade.*

Grades:

I use the following percentage scale: A= 90 percent and above, B= 80-89, C= 70-79, D= 60-69, F= 59 and below. Parents will be mailed home a record of their student's progress three times each semester. Be sure Valley has your correct mailing address, and if you don't receive the report, call the school for information.

Notebooks:

You will be required to keep a notebook this semester and bring it to class daily. In the notebook you will keep any notes given during lecture (please date each day's entries) and any handouts or returned assignments. The notebook may be collected at intervals for a grade. On occasion I may collect an assignment from a previous day.

Substitute teachers:

There will be times when I am not in class and I expect you would treat the substitute with the same respect you show me. Failure to do so will result in a discipline contract and a call to your parents.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes and additions to the rules and expectations in order to create an optimal classroom environment.

Honors English Signature Page

Please sign below indicating that you have read and understand all four pages of the Honors English Parent Letter and Syllabus document. Students must keep this document in their notebook. Students must bring this signature page back to class filled out completely and signed for a grade.

Student Signature

Print Student Name

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Instructor

Administrator

Parents and/or students: Please list any concerns, questions, or comments below-