

Honors English II

Mrs. Rau

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In Honors English II students will closely examine a variety of literary novels, short stories, poetry and drama. Recognizing the purpose and effects of literary forms and techniques, as well as developing and sharpening personal writing skills will be emphasized. Students will also hone critical thinking, reading and speaking skills.

Course Objectives:

- To promote a strong understanding of and an appreciation for literature
- To identify and understand literary techniques and elements employed by writers
- To identify major forms of literature and understand their elements
- To develop writing skills for focused, insightful, supported and organized essays
- To guide students in becoming skilled listeners and communicators

Expectations:

- Read and/or complete assigned work before coming to class
- Be prepared to discuss the assigned material. I expect you to not only answer questions about the material, but to have a point of view and raise questions as well.
- Listen to, analyze, and respect ideas from other students.
- Be willing to help others and to be helped.

Major Works to be Studied:

- A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
 - or The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
- Hamlet by William Shakespeare
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
- A plethora of poetry

Due Dates and Absences:

Students will lose one letter grade each day that an assignment is late. Of course there are sometimes serious extenuating circumstances, and that can be taken into consideration on an individual basis. It is your responsibility to come and talk with me about this promptly. If you miss class, it is YOUR responsibility to follow up on missed classwork, tests and assignments.

Attendance/Participation:

Discussion is an important element of this class, and your participation is needed. By sharing our various reflections and insights we all gain a broader understanding. Because of this, regular attendance is critical to be successful. Also, being tardy without a legitimate excuse will lower your attendance/participation grade.

Grading:

Weighted Grade Categories:

Assignments/exams/quizzes	= 85%
Participation/attendance	= <u>15%</u>
	100%

Grading Scale:

A+ = 99-100%	B+ = 91-92%	C+ = 84-85%	D+ = 76-77%
A = 95-98%	B = 88-90%	C = 80-83%	D = 72-75%
A - = 93-94%	B- = 86-87	C- = 78-79%	D- = 70-71%

Supplies Needed:

- A box of Kleenex
- Folder
- Notebook
- Highlighters, pens and pencils
- Computer, charger and a mouse if you prefer
- Electronic storage device (flash drive)

A suggestion: Read as much as you can outside of class. One of the best ways to improve reading comprehension, vocabulary and understanding patterns of writing is through extensive reading!