

Parkway South High School

Honors English 1

COURSE SYLLABUS

2018 – 2019

Teacher: **Barrett Taylor**
Room Number: **2424**
Contact Number: *** (314) 415-5759**
E-Mail Address: **btaylor2@parkwayschools.net**
Connect with me online at:

* Please note that I will be available from 9:12-10:42 (red days) and 1:00-2:30 (blue days) for office hours. If you contact me by email, I will respond within 24 hours.

Course Description

In this course, students will read and study a variety of literature, including short stories, novels, poetry, drama, and non-fiction text, to enhance comprehension and analysis skills, to make personal and global connections within and across texts, and to improve reading stamina. Students will approach texts as a reader and a writer. As writers, students will strengthen mechanics, usage, and syntax, focus on matching organization to audience, purpose and genre, and explore the use of evidence across a variety of writing forms. Students will practice effective communication skills in writing, presenting, collaborating, and listening.

Honors

Honors English 1 provides challenge and enrichment for students who are avid readers and strong writers. All areas of the English 1 program are included, but literature and composition assignments in this course are more rigorous. Each honors course has required summer reading. A weighted grade is earned.

Course Topics

Course topics include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Narrative Structure
- The Short Story
- Fiction and Nonfiction
- Literary Elements
- Theme and Symbol
- Poetry
- History, Culture, and the Author
- Elizabethan England and William Shakespeare
- Personal Narrative Writing
- RACE/PEEL Writing
- Research Writing
- Vocabulary
- Grammar

Essential Questions/Recurring Motifs

- Who are you in the world?
- What stories do you have to tell?
- What has shaped my individual identity?
- How do I see my voice taking shape in the world?

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Required Supplies

- A notebook for journaling
- A folder or binder dedicated to English Language Arts
- Pencils, pens, etc.
- An independent reading book (we will discuss this more in-depth later)

Required Texts

There is not a required text for this course. On that note, this course will utilize multiple texts from various mediums throughout the 18-19 academic year. All texts will be provided for the students by the instructor.

Additional Texts to Accompany Units (titles arranged by units)

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Hiroshima by John Hersey

Night by Elie Wiesel

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

(Students will also be required to choose *at least* four texts for outside reading.)

Articles of the Week

Throughout the semester you will be given articles from national publications to read, reflect and write about. I will explain more about this as the semester progresses.

Independent Reading Book Tests

One goal of my class is for students to read as much as possible both in and outside of class. You will select a book from the reading list (found with this syllabus) and read throughout the quarter. Written tests will be given following the completion of the text. A passing grade is 70% or above. Each student must read four books throughout the academic year. Below you will find the dates the book tests will be administered in class:

- 10.15.2018
- 12.12.2018
- 3.8.2019
- 5.17.2018

Vocabulary Tests

Why study vocabulary? According to *Bringing Words to Life*, "High school seniors near the top of their class knew about four times as many words as their lower-performing classmates." In addition, "High knowledge third graders had vocabularies about equal to lowest-performing 12th graders" (Beck, Isabel L., et al. *Bringing Words to Life*. The Guilford Press, 2013.) Having a robust vocabulary is obviously important. It will benefit you when reading and will allow you to grasp ideas and think more logically. A portion of the class will be dedicated to building and expanding your lexicons. Each week you will be given a set of words to study and learn in preparation for an assessment given the following week. You will participate in various exercises throughout the week to prepare you for the weekly assessment. In addition to the test, you will create a weekly vocabulary notebook that will capture your independent study of the words, which will be due on the day of the assessment.

- 8.30.2018 10.4.2018 11.16.2018
- 9.6.2018 10.11.2018 11.29.2018

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- 9.14.2018 10.19.2018 12.7.2018
- 9.20.2018 10.25.2018
- 9.28.2018 11.2.2018

Daily Agenda

- When students enter the classroom, they will complete the Do Now activity on the board. This may include a quiz, an open ended writing prompt, or a 2-4 minute assignment that reinforces a skill mastered from the previous class period.
- After taking attendance, I will review the learning objective for the day, the agenda, and students will write down the homework assignment in their planners.
- This will be followed by the planned lesson for the day.
- Students should expect to work from bell to bell.

Grading

Assessment of this class will be based on a point system. All work is assigned points depending on its value. The points a student earns will be divided by the points possible to determine the grade (average). Extra credit opportunities will be provided throughout the semester.

At the end of the semester your grade will be based on a percentage of points earned. I use the following scale to determine grades:

97%-100%	=H
90%-96%	=A
80%-89%	=B
70%-79%	=C
69%-60%	=D
59%-0%	=F

Attendance

This course will follow the attendance policies established by the Parkway School District. Students are expected to attend each and every class on time. Make up exams and quizzes will only be given for students with excused absences. Unexcused absences on test/quiz days will result in a zero for that grade. **Making up exams, quizzes, and assignments is the responsibility of the absent student, and must be scheduled in a timely manner.** Missing work should be in by the next class unless otherwise arranged with the instructor. Missing work may be counted late otherwise.

Cheating and plagiarism

To plagiarize is “[to] steal and pass off the ideas and words of another as one’s own, to use a created production without crediting the source, to commit literary theft” (Van Brammer, “What Is Plagiarism” 1995). It is imperative to understand what constitutes plagiarism early on to avoid the severe consequences. If in doubt about a specific or general situation, do not hesitate to ask for assistance or advice on how to properly credit sources.

Anyone found cheating, suspected of cheating, or collaborating with a cheater on a test, quiz, research paper, essay, book report, etc., will be given a zero for that assignment. The assignment will not be able to be made up, and the zero will be computed into the grade for the class.

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Student Responsibility

If you have questions or concerns about the design, the assignments, or the grading of this course, please speak with me directly. I am available during lunch, free periods, academic lab, and many days after school. I also check my e-mail regularly. Please do not hesitate to come to me for assistance.

Homework/Due Dates

All assignments will be due at the beginning of the class.

Papers not turned in at the beginning of the class are already one day late. Papers will be penalized 10% for each day (not class period) late; late days do accrue over a weekend or holiday. Other assignments such as worksheets and minor handouts will be penalized 25% for each day late (not class period). An assignment has not been submitted until it is my hands. Computer and printer problems are not valid excuses for missed deadlines (nor are they in the workplace). Do not count on the reliability or equipment in the computer labs; you should have back-up plans.

Tardiness

Tardiness for this class is defined as not being seated in the classroom in your correct seat when the bell rings.

1. 2 tardies-warning with communication to parent
2. 3 tardies-teacher assigned detention
3. Excessive tardies-referral to administration

Classroom Rules of Conduct at

1. Come to class prepared. This includes bringing materials to class, having completed homework ready to be turned in, etc.
2. Be in your seat and working when the bell rings.
3. When given a direction, follow it immediately.
4. Return all borrowed property to the lender.
5. Follow all rules established by the Parkway School District.

* Students are required to respect other people all times in this classroom.

Discipline Procedures

My ultimate goal is to have positive relationships with every student in all of my classes. By having positive relationships, we should be able to have mutual respect for each other in and outside of class. In the past, my only rule for all of my students was one thing: respect. I expect you to respect me as a person and as your instructor; in addition, you respect all of your classmates. In turn, I will always do the same for you. In the event that an issue arises in class, we will use the model below to address the issue:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Parent Contact
3. Referral to the Office
4. Scheduled Conference with Parent

Cell Phones

Cell phones can be a great resource when used at the appropriate time. With that said, I understand that you have a cell phone and may, occasionally, need to use it. Please be respectful to your teacher and fellow students while in class. Keep your cellphone on silent when you are in class. If you have an emergency that requires you to use your cellphone, I ask that you politely excuse yourself from the class so you don't interfere with teaching and learning.

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COURSE SYLLABUS AGREEMENT

Bottom portion due back August 24.

Barrett Taylor, Instructor
Parkway South High School
(314) 415-5759
btaylor2@parkwayschools.net

August 15, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please read and discuss these policies with your children, then sign and return this portion of the course outline. Feel free to contact me at Parkway South (314) 415-5759 or btaylor2@parkwayschools.net .

I look forward to working with you and your children this semester. **Please include your e-mail address if this is a convenient means of communication.**

Thank you,

Barrett Taylor

I have read this course outline and I understand that I am responsible for following the requirements and policies listed above. I also understand that I should contact Mr. Taylor for assistance if I have any problems with requirements, assignments, class design, or academic integrity.

_____ Student Name **(PRINT)**

_____ Student Signature

_____ Parent/Guardian Name **(PRINT)**

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s):

Label—home/work/cell

Parent/Guardian e-mails

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