



Phone: 713-688-1361

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English I Pre AP- Literature and Composition Course Syllabus 2020-2021

Instructor: Ms. K. Tomkins Email: Katie.Tomkins@houstonisd.org Room: 2106

Tutorials: TBD. Also, by appointment

Conference: 4th period – 10:05 – 11:35 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to English I – Pre-AP. This course is designed for highly motivated, independent learners who wish to build a foundation for college-level AP courses and exams. English I emphasizes the fundamental language skills of critical reading (read, analyze, and synthesize an array of literary pieces), critical writing (to enhance technical writing skills as well as expose students advanced stylistic writing systems), speaking, listening, thinking, viewing and presenting. An emphasis on vocabulary and grammar skills will be an on-going part of the program. The course includes studies of various literary genres: short story, poetry, novel, drama, informational text and non-fiction.

Pre-AP courses are designed to teach students the skills necessary to be successful in Junior and Senior level AP (Advanced Placement) courses. Students can expect 30 to 60 minutes of homework nightly for each Pre-AP course taken, which will include studying notes and materials covered during that day. Students can also expect work that is more rigorous including:

- Independent reading, textbooks, articles, novels, novellas etc.
- Reading and analyzing higher level reading materials
- Writing free response and document-based essays
- Independent and directed notetaking and research
- Timed assessments

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

In order to achieve our goal of excellence in literary analysis and to master the skills of writing, students in this course are expected to be present, be prompt, be prepared, be polite, and be productive. Each student will be held accountable for class work, homework and tests.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Students are expected to come to class prepared and with the required materials. Failure to do so will result in wasted class time, slower learning, and possible disciplinary action. Please have the following items with you every day.

Notebook

Blue/ Black Ink Pens and Pencils

Charged Power-up laptop

Independent reading book (online or paper copy)

TEXTS:

The textbooks for the course are as follows:

- Holt McDougal's *Literature*, grade 9
- Various fictional novels (provided)

REQUIRED ONLINE RESOURCES:

Houston ISD uses the online platform the HUB for students to access assignments, class info, grades, etc. We will use the HUB throughout the year for different assignments, therefore a charged laptop is a requirement for my class. **Other online resources may be used at the discretion of the teacher.**

HOMEWORK REQUIREMENTS:

Homework will be reserved for classroom assignments that are unfinished by the end of that class period. Consistent failure to complete homework assignments will result in slower learning, below level mastery of objectives, poor grades and parent/teacher/student conferences.

GRADING SCALE:

Grading of student work is based on state and district-required learning standards (Objective) and should provide clear expectations for mastery (Closing Product). Expectations for grading should be clearly defined through rubrics, criteria charts, or other evaluative tools. Grades will be provided to students and entered into GradeSpeed in a timely manner. A minimum of two (2) grades should be recorded each week and Tests/Projects/Quizzes which may carry a heavier weight should be offered multiple times in a grading cycle so that students have ample opportunity to show mastery of content. The following grade weights will be used to determine six-week grades:

Classwork/Homework	50%	(min 6)
Test/Project/Quiz	30%	(min 3)
Daily/Participation	20%	(min 6)

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Plagiarism, cheating and unauthorized group work; fabrication, falsification, and misrepresentation; stealing and abuse of academic materials; complicity in academic dishonesty; and academic misconduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Such decisions about academic dishonesty are at the teacher's discretion. If it is

determined that cheating has taken place in any capacity, parent contact will be made along with a referral to your grade level AP, and a score of zero for that assignment.

Students who plagiarize homework, class work, projects or tests will be given.

- *a zero on the assignment*
- *notice to counselor*
- *teacher/parent conference*
- *will not be allowed to make up assignment (at the teacher's discretion)*

REPORT CARDS & PROGRESS REPORTS:

Report cards with each student's grades or performance, conduct grades and absences in each class or subject are issued to parents once every six weeks and progress reports are issued every three weeks. Use Gradespeed to continuously look at your grades so you are prepared once progress reports and report cards are issued.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Extra Credit assignments will be offered for each grading period at the teacher's discretion.

ATTENDANCE:

Student criteria for graduation is contingent upon accurate attendance being taken. Students will be marked absent if they do not participate in class and do not turn in that day's assignment by 11:59 P.M.

ABSENCE AND MAKE-UP LEARNING POLICY:

If you are absent, you are required to make up the learning that you miss. There is no way to recover the time lost when a student is not class. In an effort to keep your learning on track when returning from an absence, These measures are the sole responsibility of the students to initiate and must be completed within one week of the absence(s). A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by me will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. If you know you are going to be absent ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, see me to get your makeup work prior to your absent.

HISD board policy states that teachers will provide a reasonable amount of time for students to make-up work. A rough standard is one to two days of make-up time for every school day missed. Even so, the district generally allows the teacher to determine what is reasonable given the particular circumstances of a student's absence and the activities missed. For example, in determining when a student should make up a missed test, the teacher might legitimately consider such factors as the amount of time the student was absent, whether new material was covered during the absence, whether there was notice of the date and nature of the test available to the student prior to his or her absence, and so on. HISD board policy states that missed tests and quizzes must be made up outside of class time, usually before or after school.

LATE WORK:

Assignments are to be completed daily, during class hours or after class hours. While I am not a proponent of taking off points for late work, I do require that all work is turned in by the end of each three-week period. If an assignment is not turned in during that time, students may have a private discussion with me regarding their grades. Late points may be taken off in certain situations. Keeping up with assignments is pertinent to this class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Except during designated group work (unless otherwise told), you are expected to complete homework, class work, and tests on your own. If you use someone else's work—even a phrase—in an essay or assignment, or talk during a NO TALKING assignment, such as a quiz or test, you will receive a ZERO and your parents will be notified of what has occurred. If you copy or otherwise cheat, you will receive a ZERO and your parents will be notified of what has occurred. Cheating is morally unacceptable and will not be tolerated, but more importantly, cheating does not prepare you to make it on your own.

OFFICE HOURS:

My office hours are Wednesdays from Monday 3:25 – 4:10 PM and Tuesday – Friday 1:50 – 2:35 PM

Office hours are designed to address to any academic concerns faced in the class via re-teaching. Students must come prepared with questions or concerns regarding the material. Students are able to receive individualized assistance or work in small group settings. Office hours are a time is also used to make up missing work.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM:

During class, unless required by the instructor, students may **not** use their cell phones. We want to stay focused on the task at hand. Breaks will be given at the end of each class period and that will be the acceptable time to use cell phones.

Laptops and tablets are allowed and will be used every class period.

CONFERENCE:

Appointments for a parent/teacher conference can be made during my conference period - 4th period – 10:05 – 11:35 AM, with an appointment with at least a 48-hour notification via email. All parent/teacher conferences will be held via Microsoft TEAMS. Please e-mail me if you would like to schedule an appointment.