**Freshmen Honors English Syllabus 2017-2018**

**4th period**

*The love of learning, the sequestered nooks,  
And all the sweet serenity of books.  
 ~*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

**Instructor**: Chalise Farr ([chalise.farr@sduhsd.net](mailto:chalise.farr@sduhsd.net))

La Costa Canyon High School, room 1302

**Description**:

Freshmen honors English is about reading literature, connecting to literature, discussing literature, analyzing literature, writing about literature, having lunch with literature, taking long walks on the beach with literature, and just about anything else you can think of relating to literature. It is about composing your best work and pouring yourself into the magic of words and how you can use them correctly, artistically, and effectively construct your own masterpieces of language. In this class we will study some of the best and most beautifully written literature and when you finish this course you will hopefully be able to understand, analyze, write about, and discuss literature intelligently with other intelligent people.

Included below are the answers to the questions many of you have when beginning a new course. Read, love, and follow these rules (okay, you don’t have to love them), and make sure you remember them. You may be quizzed at random on them (that part I am serious about).

**Materials (as far as I know at this point—DANGER there could be more):**

You will be assigned four major works (which also happen to appear on the College Board AP reading list—as will any lengthy literature I assign to read for this class). Additionally, you will be expected to select one novel of your choosing each quarter (so four total for the year). The four works that you’ll be required to read are all available for you to check out from a public library (and on occasion from our book room, though copies are extremely limited), however, I recommend that you buy your own copy (hard copy required). I cannot allow electronic copies since your textual annotations are part of your grade (and therefore must be tangibly possible to physically turn in).

The required novels are:

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

The required play is:

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

**Other materials you will need:**

* **a 100-page COMPOSITION notebook to act as your English notebook**
* **a three-ring binder/folder with pockets for the oh-so-many handouts and stories**
* **an electronic device that can connect to the school’s internet if possible**
* **computer access, access to Aeries, and the ability to print**
* **access to Google Classroom using your sduhsd Google account**
* **other obvious daily necessities such as paper, pens, highlighters, Post-It notes, etc.**
* **an outside reading book of your choosing (one per quarter—4 total--bring to class with you daily)**

**Grading Scale:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A = 93%  A- = 90%  B+ = 87%  B = 83%  B- = 80%  C+ = 77% | C = 73%  C- = 70%  D+ = 67%  D = 63%  D- = 60%  F = 59% and below |

**Grades:** Your grade will be earned as follows:

10% — Notebook, class work, and participation in class

15% — Assignments/homework

20% — Quizzes

25% — Tests

30% — Essays, writing pieces, and major projects

**Class Rules:** (In the order of importance. Rules at the top will more quickly cause me to twitch if broken than those nearer to the bottom.)

* Electronic devices of all colors and varieties need to be non-existent in the classroom. As a highly academic environment, it is impossible to listen, learn, participate, and collaborate if the buzzing sound in your backpack has you held hostage. Phones need to be silent and invisible (and no, not because you’re so great at hiding it somewhere as you attempt to break this rule). I do, on a very limited occasion, allow the *academic* use of cell phones, I-Pods, earphones, headphones, etc. in my classroom with the caveat that I get to dictate when it is appropriate to do so and that I may relinquish the opportunity at any point. Your time in class should be used in order to learn, expand your skills, and revel in the joy that is literature and all things English. If I find students abusing the privilege of using these devices in an academic manner, I will revoke the opportunity for all students. Because you have chosen this honors course, you will be expected to act like a student who is aiming to become a college *student* (emphasis on “student”—please do not refer to the Hollywood version of a fraternity initiation for your definition here).
* Be prepared for class. It is irritating to have students scrambling for the assignment that is due that day once class has begun. Being unprepared often tempts students to break my first rule, then the twitching starts, and it’s all downhill from there. I don’t like to lend out my hall pass for someone who forgot to bring an assignment or book to class OR if you need to print it at the Learning Commons. Come to class prepared! I also do not accept late work, so being prepared is really the only way to ensure your success. You can do it!
* You will have five uses of the pass (to use the restroom, go grab your bag that you left in your last class, etc.) to use at as you see fit ***each semester***. If you want to take the pass, you must surrender your cell phone.
* Be respectful when others are speaking in class. This is a safe environment, albeit academically elevated, and we do much of our learning together and from each other. Also, be willing to participate appropriately and enjoy learning! Additionally, the topics discussed and the language used in the classroom need to be of a professional manner. I mean, of all places, the English classroom (especially an honors classroom) ought to be the place to practice elevated language, even in conversational situations.
* Work is due at the beginning of the class period listed. After this, all late work incurs an immediate late penalty. I do not accept ANY assignment after its designated due date. Expect that same treatment in college. So really, you should thank me for getting you so well prepared prior to having to find it out the hard way once you’re paying for your own education. Besides, I’ll smile as I kindly, but unwaveringly decline your late work. None of my college professors did that for me.
* I do not have a problem with food or drink in class. This allowance, however, does come with a set of rules all its own. If you choose to eat, drink, or chew gum in class, it must not hamper, distract, or impede what is going on in class. For example, bringing a granola bar to munch on as you do Fab Vocab will probably not have any adverse impact on your acquisition of those words. Bringing McDonald’s version of a buffet and spreading it out over your whole desk, trying to unwrap your hotcakes while opening your syrup, and convincing me that you are learning and not distracting others who are trying to do the same will be a hard line to sell. Keep it within reason, keep it clean, invisible, inaudible, and inodorous to me and others, and there will be no problem.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required for success in this course (and, well, in life. Don’t skip out on life—or this class). Take this opportunity to really prepare yourself for the next four years of high school as well as your post-high school life. The habits that you establish now will follow you throughout your life where they will either help you to be successful or they will hinder your progress. Missing class means that you miss discussion, group activities, and essential information about deadlines, assignments, and up-coming events. Above all, the class misses you. We miss your opinions, your group misses you with projects, we miss your winning smile. Can you understand the vulnerable state you leave us in? With that said, if you do miss class, this is what you can expect:

* You are responsible for keeping track of what we are doing in class on your own time and by checking the resources I have provided for you (calendars, syllabi, Aeries updates, Google classroom, and verbal deadlines). Make sure that you know what we are going to do in class if you are going to miss.
* If you are going to be gone for any length of time, you are responsible for finding a “study buddy” to help you with vocab, notes, and assignments. If you miss, for example, an impromptu discussion on some riveting and controversial topic, I will not repeat that discussion for you. You will need to get that information from a classmate.
* If you miss class for a school excused absence, you are still required to make up any in-class work and any assignments due should be turned in early or emailed that same day. Again, you will need a study buddy to help you with the notes or information from class.
* If you have an assignment due on a day when you have an excused absence, please contact me via email so that I may update you on what you missed. You may have the district allotted time to complete the assignment, but it will need to be submitted no later than that time. I will always accept assignments early, but never late. If you don’t have the assignment in class, it will incur an immediate (but not crippling) points penalty. Because of the beauty of technology, I will accept assignments until 11:59pm of the day it is due via digital submission through Google classroom.

**Punctuality:**

Being tardy is a great way to lose participation points. Besides, it is incredibly distracting to others and, quite plainly, rude to come in late. You miss important information or instructions, and you interrupt things. Tardiness affects your grade through the participation points, not to mention the looming threat of Friday Night School and Saturday School (which I don’t dictate nor do I track—but administration does, so beware). I follow San Dieguito Union High School District’s policy on tardiness.

**Late Work:**

I do not accept late work. I believe it is a bad practice and sets up sloppy academic habits. Because this is a course setting you on a college-bound track, I am setting up the same expectations that you will encounter in college and the professional world. Late work is not accepted and can often cost you a grade, a scholarship, a promotion, or even your job. If you choose to miss class, you choose to take the natural consequence which is the loss of points. If you have a *scheduled* excused absence (such as a wedding, vacation, or school activity—something that is *planned*), you will be expected to turn the assignment in early or by 11:59pm on the day it’s due. If you find yourself in an emergency situation (which includes a funeral, an extreme illness, or hospitalization) you will need to contact me as soon as possible so that I can give you a more reasonable due date based on the circumstances. In short, if you are going to miss class on a day an assignment is due (which in all honesty is every day), please find someone to bring it to me, bring it in yourself early, or hire Cinderella’s team of helpful woodland creatures to get it through my door by 2:35pm or into our Google classroom site before midnight (the coach does turn back into a pumpkin at midnight, you know). Otherwise, please refer to the final point under attendance for any other necessary specification.

**Academic Integrity:**

This is a topic that isn’t pleasant to discuss for anyone. I like to believe that my students work hard doing their OWN work and never are tempted to take the “easy” way out. I also choose to believe that you are all here to make the most out of your own education and enhance your own learning experience through hard work and integrity. Each year, however, I am disappointed to find out that someone has tried to “pull a fast one” and has usually failed in doing so. Often, students have worked harder on cheating and trying to cover their tracks than it would’ve taken to have just completed the assignment. With that said, I am realistic enough to understand that someone might try to plagiarize or cheat. Don’t be that person, okay?

To try and keep this problem from my classroom, I will follow the following policy. First of all, if I see you cheating on a test or quiz in class, find that your assignment is identical to another student’s, or can fully upload your assignment/essay from the same source that you accessed it online, I will be so disappointed. I will also be forced to award you no points and you will not receive another opportunity to make up the assignment/quiz/test/essay. School policy also states that we record these infractions in the discipline program that administration monitors. If I find that you have plagiarized a paper or purchased a paper from some paper-writing organization on the web, I’ll be disappointed and you’ll get a big 0 on a major assignment as well as an administrative referral and call/email home. And I’ll be mad because I had to grade work from someone who wasn’t even you. (Believe it or not, I can usually tell the difference between your writing and the writing of someone else who is writing in your stead.)

I’m always surprised when students come to me and tell me that someone else in the class or one of their friends is cheating on an assignment or quiz, and you might be surprised to find out that your peers are really concerned about others getting away with doing such shoddy work. I usually find out that someone has cheated, and I’m always disappointed, and even if you get away with it, the guilt will follow you FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

**Important notes about ESP’s (Extended Study Periods):**

* Unless otherwise specified (please see school website for details about special activities planned for ESP periods on certain days), ESP’s are an extension of our English classes, occurring after the 90 minutes of regular instructional time on certain days of the week (see bell schedule).
* The English department is very good at utilizing these ESP’s and we expect the same from our students! Please understand that this time is crucial for student success. Attendance is compulsory—student absences from ESP periods are recorded as absences from their English class period on that day. Our department has collaborated to develop specific guidelines that are consistent with our goals and philosophy to enhance student learning. Below are some of the ways in which you can expect this time will be utilized:
  + Support with time management and study skills
  + Writers’ workshops between teacher and student and/or student peer editing and conferencing
  + One-on-one or small group time with teacher to discuss progress, receive remediation, etc.
  + Enrichment/enhancement of lessons, especially if extra time is warranted to relay certain concepts, etc.
  + Time for students to work on homework (for English primarily)
  + Extension of classroom activities
  + Journaling/notebook work, independent study time
  + Completion of assignments or academic discussions
  + Silent reading time and reading logs
  + Making up quizzes/tests (missed in English class only) time permitting
    - You may not leave the English classroom to make up a math test. That should be arranged with your math teacher during math ESP.
  + Review sessions

*What students will NOT be permitted to do during ESP time:*

* Sit around, waste time, distract others, or use your cell phone to catch up on the perfect Snap. In fact, cell phones must be kept put away during ESP at all times.
* Students will not be sent to work in the Learning Commons at their leisure
* Students will not be permitted to “visit” other classes/teachers or to make up tests in other teachers’ classrooms
* Students will not be allowed to leave campus or leave the ESP early to “go home.” As with any class period, students will only be permitted to leave with a proper off-campus pass arranged and picked up ahead of time.

**A Final Message to Parents/Guardians of My Students:**

First of all, thanks for reading my disclosure. It kills a little piece inside of me when students return to me and confess that nobody ever reads this. I prefer to live in denial and only address those of you who do read it. I look forward to meeting with you at Back to School Night in September.

Teaching your student is the best part of my job, and I’m looking forward to getting to know her or him. I believe that you and I are partners in this educational endeavor that your child is undertaking this year, and I hope that we can be cooperative. Since this is an honors-level class, I always assume that parents will want students to handle the issues that may come up throughout the year. I think it is good practice for them. However, you may want to contact me, or I may want to get in touch with you**. So I’m asking that all parents to fill out a brief information form at the following link:** [**https://goo.gl/forms/fscaGIKZnD5d3bvU2**](https://goo.gl/forms/fscaGIKZnD5d3bvU2). In this way, I can set up an address book so that I can contact you easily.

If you do not have an email account or you wish to communicate with me in another manner, please send an acknowledgement on a note with the preferred method of communication such as a cell phone or daytime phone number.

Thank you and I wish us all luck in a successful and literarily rich year.

Mrs. Chalise Farr

La Costa Canyon High School

English teacher

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***4th period Freshmen Honors Acknowledgment & Agreement*** **2017-2018**

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the entire disclosure for Mrs. Farr’s class and agree to its terms and policies.

**Student signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ This portion is due at the beginning of next class. It is worth 10 points.**