

## Syllabus for English II 2017-2018

Mr. Rutstein – [nrutstein@pths209.org](mailto:nrutstein@pths209.org)

Welcome to English II! It is my great pleasure and privilege to be your teacher this year and help you develop your language skills and an understanding of American literature. I have planned an exciting curriculum for you and am confident that you will learn a lot and enjoy yourself in the process.

The following information is intended to help us maximize your learning.

### **Course Description**

We will read short stories, novels, plays, poetry and non-fiction by American authors throughout our country's history to explore expression in all its various written forms. You will have continual opportunities to respond to our readings both in discussion and in writing. Through systematic analysis, we will develop more sophisticated and effective reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking skills.

### **Objectives**

The primary goals of this course are 1) to develop students' ability to view language more objectively as a tool and to use it to their purposes, 2) to enjoy the play of American literature and language both inside and outside the classroom and 3) to prepare students for the SAT exam and to take either AP or IB English next year.

### **Major Texts**

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

*The Unknown American* by Cristina Henriquez

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare (Not actually American literature, but, in fairness, the U.S. hadn't been invented yet.)

### **Assignments**

We will be performing close, analytical reading of the Major and supplementary texts. Students will also do individualized readings. We will be writing and revising in a variety of modes, including narrative, expository, persuasive and creative. We will also give speeches and presentations and do listening and note taking exercises. Students will have on average 40 minutes of homework every night and be responsible for presenting it the following day.

### **Supplies**

Students will need a writing journal, a supply of loose leaf paper and pens. In addition, students with last names that begin with A through G need to bring one box of tissues. Students with last names that begin with H through N need to bring one bottle of hand-sanitizer. Students with last names that begin with O through S

need to bring one canister of sanitizing wipes. Students with last names that begin with T through Z need to bring one box of band-aids. Students will receive extra credit points for contributing these supplies, which they will be using throughout the year.

### **Class Rules**

We will have several rules that will create a superior learning environment. Students will earn points for following these rules and will have points deducted and incur other disciplinary action for declining to follow them.

1. Students must come prepared to class. Being prepared means having completed the homework and having all the relevant materials.
2. Students must be on time and in uniform.
3. Students must treat others with respect and consideration.
4. Students must constructively contribute to discussions each day.
5. Students must deposit their cell phones in the crate before class begins.
6. Students may not eat during class or drink any beverage other than water. Students also may not sell or purchase food in the classroom.
7. Students must not plagiarize or cheat. Infractions will result in a zero.
8. Students must adhere to other rules that are found in the Student handbook and as are otherwise deemed necessary.

### **Assignment Category Weighting**

Summative (unit tests, final projects, etc.)	40%
Formative (quizzes, essay drafts, etc.)	30%
Skills Practice (homework, projects, etc.)	20%
Participation (contributions, extra credit, etc.)	10%

### **Grading Scale**

92-100	A
84-91	B
76-83	C
70-75	D
0-69	F

### **Monitoring Student Progress**

Parents are encouraged to check PowerSchool at least once a week to keep track of how students are performing. If students need or desire extra help, I will provide it.

### **Communication**

If you would like to reach me outside of class, please do not hesitate to contact me at [nrutstein@pths209.org](mailto:nrutstein@pths209.org). I will keep parents updated as often as possible at the email addresses provided on the next page, which the students will return to me.

## Signatures and Acknowledgements – English II

This page certifies that you have read and agreed to all the conditions of the Syllabus on the previous page.

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

Student Number \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn in this completed page by Friday, August 26, 2016 in order to receive 10 points toward your grade.

Thank you, and I look forward to a great year working with you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rutstein