

Grade 10 English: Course Overview

Hull High School

Teacher: Ms. Rebecca Brown

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 2:30 -- 3:00 pm, or later by appointment

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Course Description

During the course of our year together, we'll be reading a variety of novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction for critical analysis and discussion. One common theme will run throughout these works; this theme, the individual in society, will be the focus of many of our discussions. As we read, we will discuss and analyze the texts that we encounter, paying special attention to the central characters' identities as they evolve and what these individuals' experiences help to reveal about the societies in which they live. In conjunction with the reading, students will become more confident in their writing, with an emphasis on the development, support, and organization of an argument in their literary analysis. Additionally, grammar and usage will be integrated into writing instruction, with particular attention given to revision and editing, and students will learn and apply new vocabulary both within the context of the readings and through vocabulary lessons and practice. Here are some of the titles we will study this year (subject to change):

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (summer reading)

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Either *Hamlet* or *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare

Expectations

- All work will be completed neatly and within the time allowed. I *do* accept late work for reduced credit, but not if we've already reviewed the answers in class or after we've moved on to a new unit.
- Come to class prepared, having read the necessary text or completed the assigned written work and having all necessary materials (notebook, homework, writing utensils, etc.). Whichever text we are working on must be brought to class.

- Total respect for yourself, for others, and for our learning space is paramount.
- Plagiarism is an unacceptable offense and will not be tolerated. In order to avoid inadvertent intellectual theft, be sure to cite all sources. It is best to err on the side of caution and over-cite rather than risk the possibility of plagiarism. Any incident of plagiarism will be brought to the attention of the administration, will result in a “0,” and could result in disciplinary action.
- As we are all mature individuals, I look forward to lively, spirited discussions. To that end, it is important to listen attentively and respectfully to the comments of others as well as to contribute thoughtful remarks of your own.
- Should you miss class, please consult Google Classroom, contact Ms. Brown, and/or reach out to classmates to stay updated on what you missed. If you forget to bring your text home, you can always access a .pdf of the text online, so this is not an excuse for failing to complete assigned reading. Students are responsible for making up missed assignments, including quizzes and tests, upon their return and in consultation with Ms. Brown.

Required Materials

Please make sure to bring these to class with you every day.

- Chromebook (please ensure it is charged)
- 3-ring binder with loose-leaf paper
- Pen or pencil
- Highlighter
- Whichever text we are studying

Recommended Materials

In order to keep your English materials organized, you may find these helpful as well.

- Post-it notes
- Dividers (to organize your binder)
- Pocket folder (to keep stray papers organized)

Grading

Your grade will be determined by the following criteria **(percentages are subject to change each quarter, depending on the workload):**

- Class participation, preparation, and professionalism **(15%)**
This includes coming to class with the necessary materials, as well as asking and answering questions, listening carefully to others, actively taking notes and generally

contributing constructively to the classroom culture. Spirited discussion, I hope, will be the driving force of the course, and I encourage you to enter into the conversation. Nothing is more helpful in understanding a complex text than discussion – not only adding your own thoughts, but also actively listening and taking notes on what others have to say.

- **Written homework (15%)**

Typical nightly homework is reading assigned work, completing worksheets to reinforce learning, and writing notes, short answers, or paragraphs in response to a prompt. With any of the literature we read, try to keep an open mind, ask challenging questions, and remember that the depth of thinking you put into the work will largely determine what you take away from it. All homework should be neatly presented, carefully prepared, and in class on the date due. Late homework loses points and in some cases -- for instance, if we review the answers in class -- late work will not be accepted.

- **Quizzes (20%)**

Whether announced or unannounced, these allow me to quickly monitor your progress and hold you accountable for the nightly reading, new vocabulary, or other smaller lessons. If a quiz is missed, it is the student's responsibility to see me about making up all missed work in a timely fashion. The student will be expected to complete a missed quiz on the day that she returns to school. If a student is absent the day *before* the quiz, she is still responsible for taking it on the day she returns.

- **Tests (25%)**

Though the format of tests will vary, these provide you the opportunity to process and review larger units of material (e.g. a novel or play). As with quizzes, students are responsible for making up tests on the day following an absence. If a student is absent the day before a test, she is still responsible for taking it on the day she returns.

- **Papers and Projects (25%)**

Formal essays and long-term projects present opportunities to explore in depth an original topic related to reading, using the text to support your argument. Be sure to follow guidelines and ask for help when you need it. All papers will be submitted via turnitin.com AND Google Classroom. If you are absent, the paper is still due on the assigned day by the designated time. Late papers lose points.

Student Acknowledgement

Your signature indicates that you have read and understand this course overview and know what is expected of you for the successful completion of Grade 10 English. Please keep this packet in your binder and refer to it whenever you have any questions regarding the course.

Student signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

Your signature indicates that you have had the opportunity to read this course overview and discuss the expectations with your student. I thank you for all that you do to support your student's learning at home, and please do not hesitate to contact me (see info on first page) should you have any questions or concerns, or to make an appointment with me.

Parent/guardian signature: _____