ENGLISH 10 SYLLABUS
2015-2016
Ms. Ashley Jordan

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Planning Period: 4th period (10:35 – 11:30) and 7th period (1:30 – 2:20)

Course Description: English 10 integrates listening, speaking, reading, and writing through studies of literature and composition. Types of literature studied include biographies, autobiographies, essays, short stories, dramas, speeches, and novels. Students explore American literature to 1877, employing critical and analytical evaluation of literary works. Written expression lessons allow students to develop and demonstrate skills in composition, grammar usage, and the writing process. Preparation for language and reading aspects of scholastic aptitude, and post-secondary admission tests are aspects of English 10. This course fulfills the requirements of one unit of tenth grade English for graduation.

Materials:
- large three-ring binder
- loose-leaf paper
- pack of dividers (Daily Grammar Practice, Vocabulary, Literature, Grammar, Writing)
- black pens, red pens, pencils, highlighters, and research supplies (may be purchased through the H.H.S. library)
- Flash drive

Classroom Rules:

All Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and Hillcrest High School rules will be enforced in our classroom.

1. Respect yourself and all others.
2. Follow directions the FIRST time they are given.
3. Speak only when you have permission to do so.
4. Keep food, gum, and drinks OUT of the classroom.
5. Come to class on time with all materials, prepared to work for the entire class period.

Infractions of Rules:
If a student chooses to misbehave, I will first give a verbal or nonverbal warning. If the behavior does not change, we will conference in the hallway. At this time, I may also communicate with parents/guardians. If a student repeatedly misbehaves or displays blatantly disrespectful or violent behavior, he or she will be sent immediately to the office.

Please note that I keep a record of student behavior which may be used in conferences with administrators or parents.

Attendance and Makeup Work
Class attendance is essential for success in this class. Tardies will be assigned if a student is not in his or her seat and ready to work when the bell rings. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain makeup work and return that work within two days of an absence (two days per consecutive absence are permitted to return makeup work).

Because the dates for large projects, writing assignments, quizzes, and tests are set in advance, you will be expected to turn in the assignment or take the test immediately upon return to school if you are absent on the due date or test date. (Pop quizzes are different and will be handled on an individual basis.) In addition, if you miss school on the day a take-home essay is due, you must email me a copy of your final draft on the due date and hand
in a hard copy on the day you return to school. If you miss my class but attend school for a portion of the day, you are expected to turn in your work that day.

If you have questions about TCSS policies on absence and makeup work, please see the Parent-Student Information Guide.

**Grading**
Each assignment will be worth a number of points based on the difficulty and length of the assignment. These assignments include daily grammar practice and warm-ups, writing assignments and essays, speeches, homework, major exams (unit tests and nine-weeks exams), class assignments, quizzes (announced and unannounced), projects (novel projects and research projects), and word-of-the-day tests. Grades will be figured on a total points basis. The total number of points earned will be divided by the total number of points possible.

I do not accept late work for homework/daily grades. Late projects, essays, major writing assignments, etc. may be accepted one day late for partial credit, at the teacher’s discretion. Research papers are NOT accepted late except in dire and unavoidable emergencies with appropriate documentation. **If a due date for a project, writing assignment, or test has been set ahead of time, you should be ready to turn in the assignment or take the test immediately upon return to school.**

The required comprehensive nine-weeks assessments at the end of the first, second, and third nine weeks will be weighted 10% of the nine-weeks average. The comprehensive final exam (fourth nine-weeks exam) will be 20% of the course average.

**Exam Exemption Policy**
Nine-weeks exams will be given to students after the first, second, and third nine-weeks grading periods of each term. A final comprehensive semester exam covering the entire course will be given at the end of the fourth nine weeks. This exam counts 20% of the COURSE GRADE. Students may earn an exemption from the comprehensive exam if they meet the following criteria:

- Possess an A average with 6 or fewer absences* or
- Possess a B average with 4 or fewer absences* or
- Possess a C average with 2 or fewer class absences*  
  (*Excused or unexcused absences)
  AND
- Have no discipline referrals to the office that result in detention or suspension.

A student who does not meet the exemption criteria MUST take the course examination in order to receive credit. Only school-related absences will not affect the exemption status of a student. All other absences, excused or unexcused, count against the exemption.

**Personal Electronic Devices:**
I welcome the appropriate use of technology in my class! It is a powerful and valuable educational resource. Students are allowed to use electronic and technological devices at SPECIFIED times and ONLY when authorized by the teacher for an instructional purpose. Devices such as smart phones, Kindles, Nooks, laptops, and iPads are items that students may use at the designated time. Students may also use these devices to replace paperback/hard-cover novels required for purchase/use for reading assignments with permission from the teacher. If a student is using a device inappropriately (not in accordance with classroom instruction or TCBOE policy), consequences will be enforced as stated in the Code of Conduct Handbook.
Course Content:

1. Starters: At the beginning of each class, students will be responsible for recording and completing the DGP (Daily Grammar Practice). These activities will be kept in students’ notebooks, and students will be quizzed on this material weekly.
2. Tests: Tests will assess students after material is covered in class. Tests will be frequent based on the amount of material covered during the semester.
3. Quizzes: Quizzes will be given frequently to assess students’ understanding and application of literary, writing, and grammar concepts. Reading quizzes will be frequent—keep up with your reading!
4. Composition: Students will write daily. Some writing assignments will be short and informal while others will be extensive and formal. Students will write timed, in-class essays and lengthier out-of-class essays. We will explore the writing process and several modes of writing including narrative, descriptive, expository, persuasive, and research.
5. Research Projects: Students will complete at least one formal research paper and project. Other small research activities will prepare students for formal assignments.
6. Literature: Each class period will be devoted to meeting Alabama Common Core Standards through meaningful learning experiences. We will read selections from the literature book and other sources: short stories, drama, poetry, novels, and nonfiction pieces.
7. Grammar: We will cover topics including but not limited to, parts of speech, parallel structure, clauses and phrases, conjunctions, agreement, noun and verb forms, sentence structure and variety, punctuation, and active vs. passive voice.
8. Homework: Homework is meant to review or extend classroom learning activities and to enhance upcoming assignments. Students will complete homework on a regular basis.
9. Outside Reading: Some reading will be completed in class, but students will be responsible for reading some material outside of class.

Class Procedures:

1. Beginning class – Students are expected to be in their seats and on task when the bell rings. We start working IMMEDIATELY to maximize the learning potential for each class period.
2. Bell work-Students will have bell work to do at the beginning of each class. It is expected for every student to complete these assignments every day, whether graded or not. This work MUST be made up like all other work in the class when the student is absent. Students will be quizzed on this material frequently.
3. Assignments- Students will be expected to complete projects, reading, quizzes, tests, writings, and other assignments throughout the year. For many assignments and projects, students will be required to work outside of class. Homework will be written on the board and should be included in your planner
4. Questions and Tutoring- If a student has questions, he or she may raise his or her hand until the teacher gives permission to speak. Students are also able to email the teacher outside of school hours if there is a question. If a student needs extra help with the curriculum, please schedule a time to meet with me in advance.
5. Passes- It is important for students to be in the classroom at all times; however, two bathroom passes will be given per nine weeks. Unless there is an EXTREME circumstance, students will not be allowed out of the classroom. It is the student’s responsibility to go to the bathroom before or after class in all other cases. **Tardies will still be counted for students who come to class late if they have not requested to use a bathroom pass or have no available passes.**
6. Leaving the classroom – At the end of class, students are expected to continue working on their assignments until the bell rings. Students are NOT to pack up, stand up, or line up at the door before the bell rings. Upon leaving the classroom, make sure your desk area is clean. Do not leave a mess for someone else to clean up!
7. Going to other locations within the school – Students should remain quiet in the hallway and go straight to the other location (i.e. the library, lunchroom, gym, or auditorium). No trips to lockers or to the restroom will be permitted while we are in transit. We will always stay together as a class.
8. Emergencies and Drills – Students are NOT allowed to talk, horseplay, or misbehave during a drill or emergency. **Students must also stay with their class.** It is very important that teachers and school personnel are able to hear and give directions in an emergency, so any student who is talking, horse playing, or otherwise misbehaving during a drill or emergency will receive a referral to the office.

**Additional Information:**
Students, please remember that organization, communication, and a positive attitude are essential for success in this class! The material we cover in this class is rigorous, but I have no doubt that you are capable of doing well if you apply yourself and keep up with the work.

If you need help, please let me know! I am available before and after school to help you with topics you do not understand. It is also a good idea to find a trustworthy classmate to contact in the event that you miss class. Using a planner or calendar to keep up with assignments and due dates is also advised.

Parents, after reading and reviewing with your child all sections of the English 10 Course Syllabus, including the Course of Study, please sign and return the Information and Parent Signature portion of this packet. This will count as the students’ first homework grade. In addition, please feel free to contact me if you have concerns about your child and/or his or her progress.