

English 11 Course Requirements

Course Description

English 11 is a one-term required course at a level that meets the Sacramento Unified School District's graduation requirements, as well as the University of California A-G entrance requirements.

Instructor – Mr. Johnston

- The school phone number is (916) 264-4400. My office hours are from 3:10-4:10 PM, and other times by special arrangement. I can be reached via email at: michael-johnston@sac-city.k12.ca.us.
- Parents are welcome in my classroom at any time. Advance notice of a visit is appreciated. However, I cannot confer with parents during or between classes. Please make an appointment for conferences.

Course Goal

- The intent of this course is to give students the analytical skills that will enable them to succeed not only this year, but in the years to come, both in and out of school. Students who can think in an organized way, reason logically, and communicate their thoughts through speaking and writing effectively will excel in whatever path they choose. To reach these ends, the emphases for this course will be on composition, reading and analyzing fiction and non-fiction texts, and on oral communication.
- This class will be theme-driven. We will identify and trace ideas that manifest themselves in the moral, economic, political, technological, philosophical, and social structures of America from the colonial times to the present. We begin—and end—with the question, “What is an American?” In our search for answers (there is of course no one answer), we will explore the relationships among American art, drama, fiction and nonfiction, poetry, religious beliefs, pop culture, and political movements. We will explore how these changing elements reflect and illuminate the times in which they were created, and what they say about our nation and ourselves.

Grading

- Students accumulate points by participating in class, completing assignments, both in class and at home, scoring on tests, and essays. Included in these activities are group work, oral presentations, and art work, as well as listening, reading and writing.
- Grades are established on this scale:
 - 90% – 100%=A,
 - 80% - 89%=B,
 - 70% - 79%=C,
 - 60% - 69%=D,
 - 0 - 59%=F

Attendance:

- You are expected to maintain a minimum of 95% attendance. In each semester, you will lose 3 points for every day of absence over the 5th.
- You are expected to be *in your seat and ready to work* at the beginning of class.

Tardy Policy

- It is C.K. McClatchy's policy that *all* students will be in their seats and ready to work when class begins.
- Skating in the door seconds before the bell rings is still considered tardy unless you *immediately* take your seat.

Homework Policy

- All assigned homework is to be turned in before the class begins. Late homework will lose one full grade per day late. It is each student's responsibility to be sure homework is turned in on time.

Books and Supplies

- Each student must have an English-only three ring binder, a composition book, a supply of paper, and a method of keeping returned work in their binders.
- Each student must have a pencil or a pen each day. *Work is accepted in blue or black ink or pencil only.*

Student Responsibilities When Absent

- Students must ask for their makeup work or make appointments for taking makeup tests immediately upon returning to class.
- Class work and homework can be made up after *excused* absences without penalty if it is completed within the same number of days as the absence. For example, if a student is absent for two days, he/she has two days to complete any and all makeup work.
- Work that was due the day of the student's absence is due *immediately upon return to class*.
- Class work or homework missed because of truancy is never accepted. Truancy is defined as any unexcused absence.
- If the student was in class and neglected to do the assigned work, or was negligent in turning the work in, the work will not be accepted at a later date.
- Extra credit is not an option unless the student has turned in all of the required work. It is not to be used to make up for missing work.

Formal Writing

- Final draft essays *must* be typed, double spaced, in Times New Roman 12 point font, and must conform to MLA standards.
- Plagiarism will result in an automatic F grade on the first work. A second plagiarized paper will result in failure of the course. There will be no opportunity to re-write plagiarized papers.

We will be reading: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *Young Goodman Brown* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, poetry by Henry David Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, Edgar Allen Poe, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and short stories by Alice Walker and Joyce Carol Oates, among others.

My Expectations

- I expect you to make this *your* class. Your experience will be largely what you make of it. We will spend a great deal of time this year working in groups and sharing class-wide discussions. This is not only an effective way to learn, but in addition fairly-shared group work, the overcoming of shyness, and effective self-representation in a public forum is required in college, and eventually in the working world as well.
- I expect you to give a wholehearted effort. It is just as important to focus on the *quality* of your work as on the quantity of it. This is particularly important in regards to the reading load expected in this course. Do not expect to “get by” with skimming, skipping, or otherwise faking the reading required. Likewise, relying on Cliff’s Notes, Pink Monkey, Spark Notes and similar sources will produce mediocre work, at best.
- I expect you to be responsible for your education. Ask questions; seek help when you need it. I will be available most days after school, and through phone messages at the school - (916) 264-4400, ext. 3001.

Parent Acknowledgment

I have read the above course requirements and agree to encourage my child to abide by them. I also understand that I can call (916) 264-4400 at any time to arrange to speak with my student’s teacher.

Parent Signature

Printed Name

Student Signature

Printed Name

Daytime Phone Number

Evening Phone Number

Parent’s Email Address

Mobile Number (Optional)