

Vista Murrieta High School

Advanced English II (10th grade)
Course Syllabus 2013-2014
Mr. Baladez

Broncos



Contact Information

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Office Hours: Any time BY APPOINTMENT
Room: EE22

Course Description:

Advanced English II is a high school English course designed to meet state and district English Language Arts standards, as well as to prepare students for the eleventh grade. Students will learn in several modalities and different circumstances, some methods utilized will be collaborative learning, class projects, oral presentations, timed essays, and journal writing. Additionally, active student participation in discussion will be a major method for literary interpretation exchange.

Course Texts and Core Novels:

Glencoe Literature Textbook (10th Grade Literature Anthology): *Selected short stories, excerpts, and poems; Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare.

Core Novels: It is recommended that the student purchase these literary works, although copies are available in the library: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; *Animal Farm* by George Orwell; *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

INDEPENDENT READING/SSR (SILENT SUSTAINED READING)

In addition to reading core text and core novels, advanced students independently read four novels throughout the year. It is recommended that the student purchase these literary works, although copies are available in the library (see me if unavailable in the library). Reading and assignments related to the reading will be done in class as SSR, BUT MOSTLY as homework. Independent reading and annotating is designed so students learn pacing and time management skills while also honing critical thinking and higher level thinking skills.

Materials

- **College ruled** composition book in which to draft
- 3 ring binder in which students can store their planner, handouts, paper and assignments.
- Dividers to separate sections for English class
- Reliable writing utensils for in class writing assignments.
- **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:** A portable flash drive with which to store your work from school labs and from home.

Writing Assignments

Writing is the largest part of the students' grade. Every major writing assignment will be processed through at least two drafts, often three or four drafts. Final drafts are **expected** to adhere to **MLA Format**.

We will do several different types of writing in English 10 ranging from creative to analytical. Students will be exposed to strategies that will allow them to find their voice in all types of writing. The hope and intent is for students to gain confidence in their ability to write and to make them feel ready to move on to the next level of English.

Attendance

Students are expected to be in class before the bell rings. It is difficult to succeed in this class without being dedicated and arriving on time. Students will be held accountable to the school wide attendance policy. Attendance is taken once per day at the beginning of the period. If a student is tardy s/he will be told to sign in. The sign in sheet is a failsafe; if a student comes in late and attendance has been taken and s/he has been marked absent, it is his/her responsibility to get the correct paperwork from the attendance office and to clear his/her absence. If the student's name is not on the sign in sheet, s/he will be marked truant and the absence will not be excused.

Classroom behavior expectations

The number one expectation that I have as the teacher is the idea of respect. Respect for me as the instructor, the classroom as our home, your classmates as peers, and perhaps most important, respect for yourself. If we can mutually respect each other, **both inside AND outside** the classroom, then the class should be a genuine learning experience that we all can enjoy.

I expect that if a student is misbehaving, that s/he will accept responsibility for his/her actions and the consequences bred by those actions.

I expect that when a student is confused that s/he will go about finding the solution to his/her problem by utilizing his/her classmates or me. as the teacher.

Electronic devices (Please highlight the entirety of this section)

- Cell Phones: Cell phones are not to be seen in the classroom unless there is an emergency OR the teacher has asked you to take them out. Inappropriate usage is strictly prohibited.
- MP3 Players: MP3 players, including iPods will only be allowed when deemed acceptable by the teacher.
- Portable Video Game Systems: The use of any variation of PSP, Nintendo DS or any hand held video game platform is NEVER acceptable in class.
- **The inappropriate usage of any electronic device during class time will result in the immediate confiscation of the device and submission to school administration to be picked up by a parent.**

Grades

Grades	
All grades are based on a cumulative and weighted point system. Categories include the following:	
Participation	10%
Class Work	15%
Homework	15%
Quizzes/Tests	25%
Essays/Projects	25%
Semester Final	10%

Grading Scale
100% - 90% = A
89% - 80% = B
79% - 70% = C
69% - 60% = D
59.9% and below = F

Please note that an "A" means mastery. It takes most students quite a while to achieve this level of success. In most cases, an "A" in this class is not the level of achievement they have formerly been expected to meet.

Late Work and Homework Policies

Homework will be assigned when it is necessary to sharpen skills taught in the classroom, or when course work is not completed during class time. Homework must be turned in on its due date.

NO LATE WORK! HOMEWORK IS ALWAYS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS!

If a student is absent for any reason, the student may ask for missing assignments **before school or after school—PLEASE DO NOT ASK DURING BREAK OR LUNCH. Teachers need breaks throughout the day, too. ALSO, PLEASE DO NOT ASK DURING CLASS since the focus should be on the current day's lesson.** Students must have a documented excused absence when asking for make-up work; the student will have the same number of days to make up work as were missed. Extended (excused)