

Honors English II

Teacher Contact Information

Ms. Rugh

Room 285

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Students in Honors English II will take an extensive course covering the California State Educational Standards through a literature rich curriculum. This course is intended to prepare students to pass the AP English exam. All literary genres will be covered during the course as students will read a variety of short stories, poems, novels and plays. Major works include: *Antigone*, *Farewell to Manzanar*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* as well as a variety of short stories, non-fiction writing, and poems. As a class and individually, students will be expected to read the given material and dig deeper into the stories to be able to analyze these works beyond the surface. Students will be guided through this process with discussion, research, writing, and thought-provoking instruction.

Expectations

- We expect you to be interested in the way that language is written from different perspectives and what it implies about the context in which it is written.
- We expect you to be serious about applying grammar, mechanics, usage and syntax in your writing and speaking.
- We expect you to follow directions so that you do not waste your time.
- We expect you to put in time not only completing the work that is due, but in studying the material to mastery.
- We expect you to be willing to take risks and to participate in class discussions.
- We expect that you ask many questions, do more than what is asked of you, and work together with your peers, teachers, and others to gain better understanding of the world through literature.
- We expect that you always try and know that you (nor we) are perfect and to get up quickly, as you learn from your mistakes. Never be afraid to try, to ask, to fail, and to succeed.
- We expect you to be willing to work up to high standards; we know you are not experts in these areas.

A true honors English student does not make excuses when a problem occurs; he/she finds solutions.

Research Paper and Projects

Students will engage in research each year of English instruction. Papers and projects are required to be typed. Students may make arrangements to use a computer on campus if need be. Common practice will include requiring both a rough draft and final revised draft of the paper. Students will be required to provide bibliographies of sources used. Current MLA format will be taught, reinforced, and followed at every level. If papers are not in the correct format, they will not be accepted. It is to the students' benefit to have their papers read and edited by others several times before they are submitted for a grade.

Grading

Scale: A=100-90% B=89-80% C=79-70% D=69-60% F=59-0%

Grades for each semester are broken down into four categories with each category carrying a certain percentage of the student's grade. Colton Joint Unified School District has predetermined that the semester final in English 1 is worth 20% of the student's entire semester grade. Below is a list of the grade categories and their percentages for Honors English 1:

Homework and Classwork	40%
Tests and Quizzes (Benchmark tests, vocabulary quizzes and reading checks)	40%
District Final	20%

Student Work Requirements

- ALL ESSAYS MUST BE TYPED in proper academic format. The requirements will be covered in class before the first essay is due.
- All work must have a heading with first and last name, period, date and title.
- Students must write in pen.
- Student work torn from a spiral notebook, with ragged and ripped edges will not be accepted.

The purpose of these requirements is to instill a sense of professionalism and pride in work completed and turned in to the teacher and future teachers during the student's high school experience. **Neatness truly goes a long way.**

Essays

Not only must essays meet proper academic work format, but **NO MAJOR ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED LATE**. If a student is absent from school the day an essay is due, it is his or her responsibility to make sure the essay is turned in either before or during the class he/she would attend. The student may e-mail the essay as an attachment to the teacher, find a trustworthy friend to have deliver it, or have a parent drop it off in the office at any time during the day it is due with a note explaining why the child was not in class to turn it in. A student may not turn in an essay on disk or submit it later than the period it is due.

Bloomington High School Cheating Policy

The following policy and consequences for violating the policy are found in the student handbook distributed at the beginning of each school year. Each student in Honors English 1 can expect this policy to be enforced.

Bloomington High School has a no tolerance policy for cheating. The following disciplinary actions will be taken regarding cheating:

1st offence: Referral to administration, parent contact, grade of zero given on assignment.

2nd offence: Parent/teacher/administration conference, zero on assignment, possible drop from class.

Plagiarism is the use of another person's written ideas without proper citation. This includes downloading essays or portions of essays (whether it be a sentence or a paragraph), copying from another student's work, or allowing a person to write an essay that another student calls his/her own. Cheating is also committed when questions or answers for tests and quizzes are shared with students in the same or different class. Certain assignments will require a student to do research, but students will learn how to cite these sources correctly in class. **DOWNLOADING AN ESSAY OR A PORTION OF AN ESSAY IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE, EVEN IN THE SOURCE IS CITED.**

Materials

- 1 college ruled spiral notebook (70 pages)
- Pens (many more than one)
- Pencils (for quarter tests)
- College ruled paper (lots of it)
- 3 ring binder
- Agenda (school will provide this – please USE IT)
- Highlighters
- Post-it notes (regular and small size)
- Outside Reading Novels (to be chosen at a later date)

Class Rules

- Be on time to class.
- Have required supplies **DAILY** (paper, pencil, reading book, etc. – see materials list)
- Leave the classroom **better** than when you arrived.
- No obscene language.
- Have a positive attitude!! (This goes a long way! You can do almost anything with the right attitude!)

** Your cooperation affects the entire class. One person can ruin opportunities for everyone. Act maturely and be respectful to me and to your fellow students at all times.

Please remember that the classes in the honors program prepare students to take and pass the Advanced Placement literature and language exams. Students need a solid grasp of details and facts from the works in order to make inferences

to analyze the literature. We cover core works from the standard Freshman English course of study in addition to other works for in-depth study. *Also remember you will have reading assignments over winter and spring breaks.* **So please come to class with a strong work ethic and a hunger for learning.**

If this course of study does not meet your needs, please enroll in an alternate class. Honors II is challenging, but it is interesting and fun when **students come prepared to contribute and to learn.**

Helpful Hints

- Treat this class as a privilege, something that is preparing you for greatness. It is not simply ‘extra work,’ it is like having a coach train you for the major leagues. It will be tough, but well worth it.
- Asking questions is better than not knowing
- Expect to fail and expect to succeed. If you don’t get something right the first time, don’t worry, work hard and do better next time. Be prepared when the chance to succeed comes again. Success takes effort.
- Teachers are here to help you learn. You are here to take what is given to you and learn for yourself.
- Take responsibility. Excuses get you nowhere.
- Set goals and try hard to reach them. Use your calendar/agenda to plan out your time, because you can never get time back. Hopefully, you look back and are proud of how you used what was given to you.

Office Hours

If you have a question on an assignment or are in need of a conference, please schedule with me in advance. I am generally available after school. If you have other questions, you can always e-mail me at Jennifer_Rugh@colton.k12.ca.us. I will get back to you within 24 hours. My goal is to help you succeed in this class. Never be afraid to ask questions.

“ We have forty million reasons for failure, but not a single excuse.” –Rudyard Kipling

Student and Parent Information

Please take the time to provide the following information.

Student Name: (Please print) _____

Parents Name: (Please print) _____

Parents: Please fill out or dictate to your child to fill out.

Is there anything unique about your child that his/her teacher should be aware of when instructing him/her?

What are your child's strengths and weaknesses?

Students: Please fill this out.

What do you think are your two best qualities that will help you succeed in this class?

Why do you want to be in honors English?

What concerns do you have about this class?

Is there a working computer with working printer at home or easily accessible off school grounds?

Do you have the Internet at home? _____

Parent and Student:

Do you have an e-mail account, and if so, please provide a student and parent address _____

(student) _____

(parent) _____

Please sign below indicating that you have reviewed this syllabus with your child and are aware of the policies for Honors English 1.

(student) _____

(parent) _____