

English 11
Mrs. Orrell
Course Description and Expectations

Course Description

Eleventh grade English is designed to teach and improve in all areas of language including reading, writing, speaking, and listening. You will be encouraged to be active participants in the classroom on a daily basis, as well as to participate in various oral projects throughout the semester. In addition to speaking we will be reading and analyzing a variety of literary works, as well as writing a great deal. You will also be required to do a lot of independent reading and writing to sharpen your skills for college or the workforce. This is a crucial year in high school education in that you will be taking the reading and writing SOLs, tests which determine whether or not you graduate from high school. The writing and literature we cover in class is designed to prepare you for these important tests, but it will be your responsibility to keep up with the pace and ask for assistance if it is required. You will take the Writing SOL in October (first semester) or March (second semester), and the reading version is given at the end of the semester. I will be available for after-school tutoring on a regular basis; if you need extra help or more SOL prep time, please just let me know. I'm here to help!

The class will be learning more complex literary terms and more advanced skills concerning writing, reading, and speaking. We will build on what you already know with the addition of new content.

Materials

Elements of Literature textbook, other novels, plays, or workbooks we are using at the time, your chosen novel*, a three ring binder with dividers and loose-leaf paper (no spiral notebooks with ragged edges, please!), pens, pencils, and a USB drive

I-Search Project

During the second nine weeks, you will spend approximately two weeks researching and completing a detailed research project, which will consist of a paper and a PowerPoint presentation. Much class time will be devoted to its completion; therefore, if your work is not turned in on the day it is due, you will receive a zero for the assignment. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Expectations

I expect you to be in class every day, on time, and ready for the day's work. You must be in your desk and working on the daily grammar assignment when the tardy bell rings. I expect you to have a positive attitude and to behave as a young adult. We have a lot to cover in a semester's time, which means I have no time or patience for disruptive behavior. If you choose to misbehave in my class, you will be sent to ISS immediately – no exceptions.

Attendance

Make sure you are familiar with the county's attendance policy found in the handbook. It is strict, so daily attendance is critical. If you do miss a day, you will need to see me the following day to receive the previous day's assignments. This is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**; **I will not track you down to tell you what you missed!** If the missed assignments are not made up in a timely fashion, you will receive a "0" for that grade. The following is a timetable for making up work after a student's absence from class. CHS policy is that if you miss one day of school, you'll have one day to make up the missed work; if you miss two days, you'll have two days to make up the work, and so on and so forth.

Classroom Rules

Again you should be familiar with the rules set forth by the county in the handbook, for they will be applied in my classroom. The Golden Rule will be followed in this classroom, as well. The county's cell phone policy is clear, so everyone should be familiar with the consequences. The first time I **see or hear** your phone in my classroom, I will deliver it to an administrator, who will hold it until a parent picks it up. Any offenses after that will result in the loss of the phone for the **remainder of the semester**. Please turn off electronics while at school or risk losing them. The administration mandates that we strictly adhere to the county policy when dealing with

phones in the classroom. **First block students, you will have until the end of announcements to finish the breakfast you picked up from the cafeteria. After the moment of silence, there will be no more eating or drinking in class. Food and drink from home is not ever allowed in first or third block.**

Homework

Homework will be assigned almost every night and I expect your work to be completed when they walk in the door. Many assignments will require reading, so you should be prepared to answer questions on the material and/or take a pop quiz at any time.

Grading

Our class will be following the accepted grading scale found in the handbook. Work that is not turned in will be averaged in as a "0", so be sure to turn all assignments in on time, every time.

Interim grades are approximate averages. They are not the final grade. There are a significant number of grades to be earned the second half of the nine weeks, so the interim should be viewed as a statement of progress.

In general, the grade distribution of English 11 is:

Homework	10%
Classwork	20%
Quizzes	30%
Tests/Papers/ Projects (Summative)	40%

Accomack County grading scale: 90-100 =A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; below 60=F

Plagiarism

In this day and age it is all too easy for you to find "help" with writing assignments through technological sources and friends. If you should choose to follow this path on **any** assignment and are caught (and I do check), you will receive a zero for the assignment that cannot be made up. Cheating is laziness and absolutely will not be tolerated.

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Parents/ Guardians:

Please review the course requirements with your daughter or son. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me **at work**- 336-6166 - or email me at melanie.orrell@accomack.k12.va.us. Any questions you may have are most welcome. By working together, I know that we can make this a great year for your child.

Finally, please sign below so that I will know that you and your son/daughter are familiar with the requirements for English 11, and return this sheet to me tomorrow.

____(student's name)

(student's signature)

(parent's/guardian's signature)

(date)_____