

English I

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*“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.” Thomas A. Edison*

**General Objectives**- This year we will go on a journey together to read articles, short stories, novels, plays, and poetry. The objective is not to merely read, but to uncover the meaning within the text. You will learn to identify the pulse, analyze it, and then make a deeper connection with it through discourse and writing. Students should expect to develop fluency in writing; develop and practice verbal skills; read and analyze a variety of literature; develop effective study and organizational skills; develop research skills. Students will be taught with the rigor necessary to prepare them for college.

**Texts**- The curriculum for our class is the newly adopted Studysync. It is mostly an online program that will allow us to read through texts, and develop your reading comprehension and analytical skills. Other texts will be in the form of novels and should be available from the media center when the time comes. We will be reading To Kill a Mockingbird, The Odyssey, Of Mice and Men, and The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet.

**Materials-** Spiral notebook, loose-leaf college-ruled notebook paper, black/blue pens, pencils, highlighters, colored pencils, erasers

**Course Requirements-** PSUSD and California policy dictate that a student must pass each semester with a minimum of 60% (D-) in order to receive credit for that semester. All students must successfully pass all eight semesters of English.

**Class Expectations:**

\*Arrive to class on time.

\*Have all necessary materials.

\*Turn in assignments on time.

\*Avoid behavior that impairs your own or others’ academic achievement.

\*Practice kindness, patience, honesty, and good manners towards fellow students and school staff.

**Tardy Policy-** Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be in their seat by the time class begins. Students who are tardy will be marked as such and will serve detention. Tardiness affects the entire class, not just the person who is tardy; therefore, will not be tolerated.

**Discipline Policy**- Practice the class expectations as listed above. Should action be necessary due to a student breaching the expectations, the following will occur:

1. Warning by the teacher.
2. 30 minute after school or lunch detention and parent communication.
3. 60 minute after school detention and parent communication.
4. Discipline Referral.

Please recognize that some offenses may warrant an immediate referral. Please strive to follow the expectations and avoid any unpleasantness. **Remember, make GOOD CHOICES**!

**Grading Policy:**

This grading policy has been adopted by the RMHS English/ELL Department and approved by the administration. All teachers in the department will enforce it.

**Grading Scale:**

A+ 97 and above

A 94-96

A- 90-93

B+ 87-89

B 84-86

B- 80-83

C+ 77-79

C 74-76

C- 70-73

D+ 67-69

D 64-66

D- 60-63

F 59 and below

It is important to note that Semester Grades are based on overall percentages accumulated throughout the semester, not the average of the two quarter grades.

**Credit:**

Per district policy, students who earn a D- or better will receive five credits per semester. Those who earn an F will receive no credits. It is important to note that many colleges require a C or better in order to qualify for admissions.

**Grading Categories:**

All assignments will be worth 100 points. Assignments will be weighed according to their categories. For example, a 100 point essay is worth more than a 100 point quiz.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Examples | Percentage of Total Grade |
| Minor Grades | Homework assignments  In-class assignments  Rough Drafts  Quizzes  Graded Discussions  Notebook Checks  Class Participation | 55% |
| Major Grades | Final Drafts of Process Papers  Major Tests (texts, chapters, units)  Major Projects  Final Presentations | 40% |
| Final Exams | Semester 1 and Semester 2 Final Exams | 5% |

**Late Work:**

Assignments are due at the beginning of the period or when collected. Assignments turned in late will lose partial credit as follows:

\*Assignments lose 10% of their overall score for each day they are late, for up to 10 school days. (1 day late= -10%, 3 days late= -30%, 6 days late= -60%).

\*No late work will be accepted after ten school days.

\*Students who miss class for scheduled school activities (sports, performing arts, etc…) must meet the same assignment deadlines as other students. (If you have an away game on Thursday and your essay is due Thursday, you must turn in your essay by Thursday- NOT the Friday you come back.)

**Make-up Work:**

\*Make up work from an absence receives full credit if made up within the same number of days they were absent. (Absent one day= one day to makeup work. Absent three days= three days to make up work.) After that, work will be considered late.

\* Tests and quizzes must be made up either at lunch or afterschool BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Tests and quizzes must be made up within three days of your return to class.

\*Students should talk about make-up work with the teacher during his/her office hours- NOT during class.

**Honor Code-** Academic honesty and integrity are vital in the educational environment. While there are times when group or pair work is called for, much of the work completed for a grade is individual. The grade is for the student to assess what the student knows, not someone else. Do not undermine my trust in you! Once gone, it is very difficult to regain.

**Plagiarism**- Plagiarism is presenting another person’s ideas as one’s own. This occurs through the deliberate attempt to pass off another person’s work as one’s own OR by failure to acknowledge and cite sources through proper documentation. Both types of plagiarism are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Always turn in your own original work and follow your teacher’s directions for citation. Consequences for plagiarism are outlined in the RMHS English Department Grading Policy.

**Grades**- Please note that I will not discuss grades during or between classes. Please see me during office hours to do so or communicate via email. Additionally, keep in mind that student work is evaluated on the quality and accuracy of the product.

**Lanyards & IDs** – Students are expected to have their lanyard and ID on everyday. Students who do not have their lanyard or ID will be sent to the office and be issued a Loaner ID to wear for the remainder of the day.

**Phones, IPODS, MP3 Players** – The use of phones and music players will not be allowed during class EXCEPT when the teacher clearly gives permission. There will be times when the teacher will allow certain apps on smart phones to be used; however, having your phone out, music playing (with or without ear phones), texting, etc will not be tolerated. Phones may be confiscated and held by the office. Please make good choices!

While in class, students should ONLY use their electronic devices for the purposes of the classwork and should ONLY use their devices when instructed to by the teacher.

**Chromebooks** – Students will need to have their chromebooks everyday for class. They are expected to be charged. Chromebook use will be monitored during class. You are expected to be on task and on directed websites (Studysync, Google Classroom, Google Docs); however, you may ask me about having other tabs open when you complete assigned work.

**Bathroom Use:**

Students may not use the bathroom passes within the first or last 10 minutes of class. Only one student may use a bathroom pass at a time. Bathroom passes allow students 5 minutes from the time they exit the class to the time they re-enter the class. Bathroom passes may not be used during a test or quiz. Students must exercise respectful, non-disruptive behavior while using the passes. If this is abused, you may lose your privilege and can lead to being escorted in the hallway.

**Profanity**:

You are expected to use appropriate school language. Treat school as a job; you would not use profanity in the work place. You are here to learn academic language and professional skills.

No profanity or otherwise offensive language will be used in class. What is considered “profane” or “offensive” will be determined by the teacher, NOT the individual student, and will be reviewed in the first week of school.

If inappropriate language is used, the student will be escorted from the room by security and will have to spend the period in the office or be assigned ISS. Repeat offenders will incur harsher consequences, including calls home to the parents/ guardians.

**Contraband**:

Please review the list of items which are not allowed on campus. Students found in possession of those items will be disciplined in accordance with the student handbook. The school has the right to conduct random searches anywhere on campus, which may include the use of metal detectors and scent dogs.

**Parent/ Guardian Signature Sheet**

Due on Friday, August 10th

**Statement: I have read, understood, and agree to the class syllabus. I will have all required materials in class by Monday, August 13th.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes for the Teacher

Use this space to list any allergies, medical conditions, or other important information, or to ask questions.

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Students: Tear this page off and turn it in. Keep the actual syllabus for your reference in your spiral notebook.

DO NOT TURN IN THE SYLLABUS.