



Syllabus: English 1/2 2008-2009

Instructor: Mrs. Maralina Milazzo
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Basic Course Description:

In this class, you will read novels and stories that include adventure, conflict, birth, death, romances, difficult choices, friendship, gangs, family, childhood, culture and drama. We will explore these ideas in writing, through dynamic presentations and discussions, and through song, poetry and film.

Standards Course Description:

This is a standards-based course, designed to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading comprehension, language usage, and writing, literary analysis, and critical thinking. By developing these skills, students will be able to demonstrate their understanding and appreciation of literary genres (short story, novel, poetry, drama) through the use of several writing modes.

Major Objectives:

- 1) The student will develop an understanding of and appreciation for major works of prominent authors and works of their choosing.
- 2) The student will learn to appreciate proper and correct use of the English language.
- 3) The student will increase his/her vocabulary by learning new words encountered in the assigned reading, most commonly tested words, and *Holt Vocabulary*.
- 4) The student will improve critical thinking skills and writing proficiency.

Students will attain superior writing, vocabulary, reading, writing, speaking and listening skills to be utilized throughout life.

Texts/Supplemental Work*:

Holt Language Text

The Odyssey by Homer

Various works by Edgar Allen Poe

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, and film (if time permits)

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, and film clips from multiple versions

Catcher in the Rye (if time permits) by J.D. Salinger

*I reserve the right to alter these works as necessary for differentiation of instruction. Notification of all changes will be given if necessary.

You Must Bring:

2 Spiral Bound Notebooks, Pencils, Pens, Highlighters, Colored Pencils (when needed) and the a binder with 4 tabs, only to be used for English. **Please bring these items everyday.**

Course Requirements:

(What you need to do to pass this class)

- 1) The student will complete the reading of all assigned selections and successfully pass benchmark tests on these works.
- 2) The student will demonstrate an understanding of new vocabulary from the assigned reading and most commonly needed words.
- 3) The student will participate in individual and group presentations.
- 4) The student will demonstrate critical thinking skills in oral and written work.

- 5) The student will present writing proficiency through timed writings done in class and formal compositions completed outside of class. The required essays for 9th grade are the following: Schaffer Style essay, personal narrative, literary response, persuasive, research, and evaluation. These, along with others, will be kept in the individual student's writing portfolio in class.
- 6) The student will engage in outside reading and will exhibit knowledge of that reading through a book requirement assignment. Please see handout "Book Report Requirement."

Classroom Requirements:

- 1) **Be punctual** to class and in your seat when the bell rings. If your absence is excused, please set up an appointment to come in during Advisory to make up quizzes, tests, or in-class writing assignments.
- 2) **Arrive ready to learn** by having the proper textbooks, novels, plays, pens, pencils, and a binder containing paper, and any previous assignments necessary to complete your tasks.
- 3) **Respect yourself, respect the rights of others, and respect the physical classroom environment.**
- 4) **Follow Directions and stay on task**, in class and by turning in all work neat, complete, and on time.

Daily Procedures:

Entering the Classroom: Please come in to the class, sharpen your pencil, get out your school planner or binder to write the agenda, and begin the Tobiko activity **before the bell rings**. Once the bell rings, you should already be in your assigned seat, with these items on your desk. It should be quiet in the room so that everyone can focus on their personal tasks.

Tobiko- Opening Activity:

There is a daily opening activity on the board. You are expected to be seating and working on the opening activity when the bell rings. Please do not use the early time as a talking time. This behavior will slow down the class period, and take valuable time away.

Menu-Feeding Frenzy:

Your agenda for the day is always in the corner. Watch for important dates that will be posted.

Announcements:

There is a white board dedicated to activities of importance. Be sure to keep track on them in your planner!

Leaving the Classroom: The bell can ring, but it does not dismiss you. The room must be clean, and all students must be seated, quiet, and ready. When I see this has been completed, I will dismiss the class. Please be careful not to knock desks out of place as you leave, as there is limited space in the classroom, and I would like it to be ready for the next class.

Other Procedures:

Pencil Sharpening: The best time to do this is before class. This includes asking people for lead. If you must sharpen your pencil during class, please do it during the *working phase*.

Leaving the Classroom During Class:

Office: There are occasions when you may need to go to the office during class. Please be sure to take the office pass, located near the white board, and bring the required note back with you. You **MUST** sign in and out if you leave to go to the office. Students who forget to sign in or out will have **automatic detention**.

Restroom: If there is a real need to use the restroom, I will allow you to do so. You **MUST** sign in and out from the restroom. Students who forget to sign in or out will have **automatic detention**. Unless there is a very real medical emergency (which will require a note), please do not ask to use the restroom excessively, and do not ask during class unless we are in the *working phase*. Between each class is a 7-minute passing period. There is also advisory, break and lunch spread throughout the day. There is plenty of time to use the restroom that does not involve disrupting or missing class.

Nurse: Sometimes medical needs arise, and you need to visit the nurse. You **MUST** sign in and out if you leave to go to the nurse. Students who forget to sign in or out will have **automatic detention**. Please bring the nurse's pass with you, located behind my desk, and return with the proper documentation. Please note: the nurse is not available until 8:00 AM.



Trash: Hold on to your trash at your desk until the *working phase*. Refrain from crumpling up papers at your desk, creating pencil shavings, or leaving your desk during the *instructional phase* of class.

Room Condition: We are all borrowing a classroom. This classroom is shared by other teachers and students. If it does not belong to you, please do not touch it. **If you dirty or break an item, you are responsible to clean or replace the item. Do not touch the teacher's computer or desk.** Before you leave, you are expected to be sure the classroom is clean and ready for the next class to begin.

Work Policies:

Assignments: All assignments need to be turned in neat, complete, and on time.

Neat: This means the writing is readable. If the ink is in a color that is difficult to read, such as yellow or orange, it will not be accepted. If it is torn, smudged, crumpled or folded up into little pieces, **it will not be accepted.**

Complete: The assignment needs to meet the minimal length requirements and follow the guidelines on the grading rubric given for each assignment. If it is clear that you did not complete the assignment when you are ready to turn it in, **the assignment will not be accepted.**

On Time: If an assignment is late, you will be able to turn in the assignment up to 4 days late, unless it is an excused assignment (see absences). If the assignment is turned in after the period it was due, it will be half credit. **After the four days, it will not be accepted.**

Evaluation and Grading Process:

Daily work, homework, sustained silent reading, book requirement assignments, quizzes, tests, along with expository, analytical, and persuasive essays, personal writings, individual and group presentations, and all other projects, will all be graded using point accumulation. Grading percentages are as follows:

97%-100%=A+
93%-96%=A
90%-92%=A-
87%-89%=B+
83%-86%=B
80%-82%=B-
77%-79%=C+
73%-76%=C
70%-72%=C-
67%-69%=D+
63%-66%=D
60%-62%=D-
1%-59%=F

The following shows the weight of each category:

Writing/Projects	30%
Tests/Quizzes	25%
Homework/Class work	25%
Sustained Silent Reading	10%
Participation	10%

"Beyond" Opportunities: While there is no opportunity in this class for extra credit, there will be "beyond" opportunities. These assignments are optional extensions of our normal curriculum in class. "Beyond" opportunities do not count in the grade book as normal extra credit. Instead, if you successfully complete a "beyond" opportunity, it will count as an increase of a full letter grade on an assignment of your choice. If you are doing well that term, and you want to save up "beyond" points, after you have successfully completed 3 "beyond" opportunities, you may them to go up one half grade at the end of the term. For example, if you have a B- in my class, you may use your "beyond" points to move to a "B."



Exceptions: Students MUST have a minimum grade of D+ or better in order to receive “beyond” opportunity points.

Absence/Tardy: Though you will have one day for every day that you have an excused absence, you miss important discussion, clarification and lecture notes when you miss class for any reason. **It is your responsibility to make up all work.** You may make an advisory appointment to make up work and discuss issues. Although you will have the time, and there is no grading “penalty” for missing work, every day carries important information in my class that you will learn and use. There are no “good days” to be absent from English class. Incidents do arise where you need to miss class. Plan to be each day just as I do.

Other Policies:

Group Discussion: There will be many opportunities to discuss as a full class and in groups. Part of your grade is your participation in these discussions. Remember to contribute ideas, express your opinion respectfully and **listen** to the discussion around you. **Some test questions may be generated by our discussions in class!**

Debate: During any discussion, there is bound to be a difference of opinion, and sometimes the issues that arise are extremely controversial. This class is designed to allow a person to consider different points of view, and not to push any one viewpoint. You may explore different ideas, argue viewpoints that may not reflect your own, and this is not intended to persuade you to move away from, nor to strengthen your current thinking. It is to teach you to think for yourself and express these thoughts eloquently in writing and speech. You will not be able to argue any point clearly without understanding the other side.

With that said, emotions often come up during a heated discussion. Respect must be shown to all participants in the discussion, and the language used must be acceptable for a PG rating.

Respectful discussion is exciting and stimulating, and helps create the best products of communication. Disrespectful conduct only spreads intolerance, and neither will be tolerated in this classroom.

Cheating: Plagiarism, either by copying from friends, through the Internet, by trying to duplicate test answers or by any other means will result in an immediate office referral. It is a very serious offense, and it will be treated as such. Lincoln High School policies on cheating will be followed in all circumstances. For more information, see your student handbook.

Classroom Discipline:

If a student exhibits inappropriate behavior, one or more of the following disciplinary measures will be taken:

- 1) Warning to student
- 2) Student/teacher conference
- 3) Parent contact and/or parent/student/teacher conference
- 4) Referral to an administrator

Although this is the standard procedure for consequences of behavior, there are certain offenses that will warrant immediate attention from an administrator. Violence, defiance, brandishing weapons or other serious offenses will be immediately handled by campus supervisors and relayed to administration.

As your teacher, I reserve the right to skip steps in classroom discipline and handle specific situations in the appropriate manner.

This is a safety zone. As long as you are in this room, you should feel safe from ridicule, violence and prejudice. Any behavior that changes this environment will be handled immediately and with great seriousness.

I am so glad to be your teacher this year! Let's have a great 2008/2009!



FOCUS ON SAN JOSE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT LIFELONG LEARNING STANDARDS

Students will be **effective communicators** who:

- ✓ **Listen** objectively with understanding
- ✓ **Write** and **speak** with clarity of meaning to any audience for a variety of purposes
- ✓ **Read** a variety of materials with understanding
- ✓ Use a variety of strategies to communicate information

Students will be **informed thinkers** who:

- ✓ Identify, define and solve problems
- ✓ Set criteria and analyze alternatives in making decisions
- ✓ Use a variety of critical and creative strategies in solving problems and making decisions
- ✓ Explain their thought processes in arriving at outcomes
- ✓ Apply problem-solving and decision-making skills to real life situations

Students will be **collaborative workers** who:

- ✓ Contribute to the achievement of group or team goals
- ✓ Perform a variety of roles within groups or teams
- ✓ Acknowledge and respect contributions of others
- ✓ Reflect on group or team and personal performance

Students will be **self-directed learners** who:

- ✓ Assess and reflect on their attitudes, skills and behaviors
- ✓ Set priorities, plan and take action to accomplish goals
- ✓ Manage time and resources efficiently
- ✓ Apply what they learn to other situations
- ✓ Explore and prepare for academic, extracurricular and career opportunities

Students will be **responsible members of society** who:

- ✓ Recognize diverse ethnic, linguistic, cultural and economic backgrounds
- ✓ Recognize the rules and processes that govern societies
- ✓ Demonstrate and exercise the skills required to be a contributing member of a society
- ✓ Apply practices that preserve the safety and health of one's self, others and the environment

Students will be **information processors** who:

- ✓ Identify, access, gather and evaluate relevant data
- ✓ Convert data into usable information related to need
- ✓ Build knowledge by using a variety of information resources and tools including technology

For Student File ↑

✂ Cut Here: Return to teacher

I have read and understand this syllabus for Mrs. Milazzo's English 1/2 class. I agree to abide by the classroom rules and regulations. I will follow the procedures as outlined in this syllabus, and those of Lincoln High School. I will read this syllabus if I forget a policy or procedure, and then if I have any further questions, I will ask Mrs. Milazzo. I realize that policies, rules and procedures may be added as necessary.

I am aware that this class will be challenging. I am prepared to meet the standards outlined by this syllabus.

_____ Print Student Name Clearly

_____ Student Signature

_____ Date

_____ Email

Please turn in this page before Monday, September 1st, 2009.



Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you and your student to English 1, freshman English. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me or call the number on the front of this syllabus at any time. I will be sending out email notices about upcoming assignments, current classroom events and specific information about your child. Please read the syllabus and sign the bottom portion. If you would like to be on my email list for English class, please add your email address below. It will only be used for this classroom, and will not be shared with others. Also, if you enter your email address, I will add permissions for you to look at the website and blog listed on the cover of this syllabus. It is a great way to keep up with what your student should be doing to succeed in class.

Many parents have asked how they can help the class. If you subscribe to any current magazine and are able to offer us your used copies, your generosity would be much appreciated. We are also limited in photocopies. If you are interested in donating copies to the class, please contact me. Extra notebooks, paper, or binders can help students who can not afford their own. Any and all donations of materials or books will go directly to those who need it. Finally, we always need Kleenex.

Please call anytime with questions, comments, concerns, or considerations. You student will be held to high standards, and open communication is key to helping them succeed.

I look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

Maralina Milazzo

I have read and understand my child's syllabus for English 1/2 for the 2008/2009 school year. I will encourage my child to do their best, and ask questions as they come up.

_____ Parent Name _____ Student Name

_____ Signature _____ Student Email

_____ Mailing Address

_____ Email Address

