

Takoma Academy

Course Syllabus

Honors English I

Course Information

Marking Period: Full Year Course

Class Location: Room 3

Period: 7

Teacher Information

Name: Ms. Ericka Blackwell

Phone: 301-434-4700

Office Location: Room 3

Office Hours: By appointment

E-Mail: ebblackwell@ta.edu

Course Description:

Honors English I is an advanced comprehensive English course of literature, composition, and language, including listening and speaking. It is the beginning course of the honors English track at Takoma Academy. The study of literature includes reading and comprehending a wide variety of literary forms including short stories, nonfiction, poetry, drama, novels, and spoken and visual texts. The course offers supportive reading strategies for a variety of purposes. This course also focuses on the writing process through response to literature, creative writing, and connections to real-life situations and problem-solving. The study of language targets usage, mechanics, and strategies for vocabulary development integrated into literature and composition components. In addition, the course will teach grammatical concepts and applications. Students will review punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and usage as well as work on logical thinking and various modes of composition, including the research paper. Listening and speaking skills are also developed throughout the course.

Course Competencies/ Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete Honors English I will be competent in the following areas:

- Students will be able to write original pieces employing the writing process.
- Students will be able to locate, evaluate, and utilize viable sources for research.
- Students will be able to conduct and present research both written and orally.
- Students will be able to write and speak using proper grammar.
- Students will be able to use new vocabulary words correctly, using context clues, knowledge of root words, and word origins as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.
- Students will be able to read, understand, and respond to essential content in a variety of nonfiction and fiction texts and documents.
- Students will be able to define and identify literary terms.
- Students will be able to explain the format of drama.
- Students will be able to explain the format of poetry/epic poetry.
- Students will be required to problem solve and critically think at all times.
- Students will be required to move at a fast pace.

Required Materials:

Advanced Language & Composition For Honors and Pre-AP English Courses (textbook)

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Student Evaluation

The grading system for the English Department at Takoma Academy is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Attendance | 5% |
| Listening and Speaking | 20% |
| Language | 25% |
| Writing | 25% |
| Reading | 25% |

Grading

Rubrics will be provided for writing pieces and projects for each student via electronically and paper. Late work from an unexcused tardy or absence will receive a starting grade of 50% less than the max points for the assignment. The grade will go down an additional 10% until it has reached a final grade of zero. If the absence or tardy is excused then the student is required to meet with the teacher on the first day back in the class to schedule new assignment due dates. If student doesn't meet with teacher on return the assignment will result in a zero.

Keep in Mind!

For the opportunity to receive all possible points, assignments must be turned in neatly written or typed (depending on criteria) on clean, straight edged paper. The student's name (first and last), class code, and due date must be written/typed, in the top right corner as a heading for the assignment.

Handwriting that the instructor cannot read will automatically be considered unacceptable, and the information will immediately be considered incorrect.

Attendance Policy

Regular and prompt class attendance is an essential part of the educational experience. Takoma Academy expects students to exercise good judgment regarding attendance and absences. Students will accept full responsibility for ensuring their work does not suffer because of absences. All students are expected to attend every scheduled class on time. Exceptions may be made for illness and valid emergencies. Please see Student Handbook on attendance policy for the teacher will adhere to this policy for unexcused and excused tardies and absences.

Classroom Expectations

1. Students will come to class on time prepared and ready to learn.
2. Students will complete all assignments, including homework, by all deadlines. Make-up work is only accepted after an excused absence. It is your responsibility to see me for your work before or after school. (Please refer to Student Handbook.)
3. All students will be silent and respectful while other students read aloud.
4. The teachers and students will work together for a respectful, safe classroom.
5. Participation in class discussions will enhance all students' learning experiences.
6. Students are expected to have all assigned readings completed; this may require some reading to be completed outside of the classroom.
7. Cell phones, iPods, tablets of any brand, laptops, mp3 players, and any other personal items are prohibited in class at any time.

Class Requirements

Students will be required to complete and pass writing assignments, research projects, tests/exams, and homework. Students will also be required to read outside of class, participate meaningfully and respectfully in classroom discussions, maintain good attendance, have a respectful and positive attitude, and come to class ready to learn! Each student is required to turn assignments on time on Edmodo and maintain their blog sites on wordpress.com.

Rewrite Policy

Students are allotted 3 redoes on assessments per semester. This doesn't include homework or class assignments. Please follow the Student Handbook on the steps to obtaining an assessment redo.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been

determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are considered serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade. Please refer to the Student Handbook.

Methodology

A combination of lecture, class discussion, warm-ups, exit tickets, journals, CNN10, pop quizzes, short answer essays, papers, presentations, videos, cooperative learning, and problem-based learning will be used in this course. Grades will be determined by the satisfactory and timely completion of assignments. The grade of each assignment is based on the prerequisite given for each assignment.

Please acknowledge that you have read and understand the information explained above.

Student Signature

Print Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Print Name