Riverdale High School

English I – Honors Syllabus

Ms. Drilling

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Room 8

Welcome to 9th Grade Honors English! I am beyond excited to begin my first year at Riverdale with all of you! This document is the course syllabus for the upcoming year. A syllabus outlines the important information you will need to know about a particular course; in our case, the course is English. You will be able to reference this syllabus should you have a question about any of my policies, including absences, tardies, and cell phones. I am also giving you your first extra credit opportunity (something that will not happen often). If you keep your syllabus until the end of the year, I will award extra credit points.

**Course Description:** During your year with me we will explore many themes and topics while reading novels such as *The Outsiders* and *Night* and short stories such as “Hills like White Elephants” and “The Cask of Amontillado.” We will read a number of informational texts that come from newspaper articles and magazines. Writing is also an integral part of the English curriculum. There will be many informal and formal writing prompts throughout the semester. Reading and writing occur in our lives each and every day.  My goal for this year is to help you discover a love of not only reading and writing, but of learning.

**Availability:** I will be available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. and Monday through Thursday from 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. If these times do not work, come see me and we will set up a time to meet outside of the times listed. I also check and respond to email frequently, so do not hesitate to contact me through email! I also have a Twitter where you can follow me and ask questions - @readingandrams or you can always check my website - <http://riverdaleenglish.weebly.com/>.

**Classroom Expectations:**

**Be Prompt**

You are expected to be seated and prepared to work when class begins. As you enter the classroom, have homework ready and complete the entry task.

**Be Prepared**

Come to class ready to learn and ready to contribute. All students need to come to class with the necessary supplies.

**Be Respectful**

Respect yourself, others, and all materials. Students are expected to be polite and act in a responsible manner, treating each other, the teacher, the classroom, and all materials with respect and dignity.

**Be Positive**

Don’t be afraid to give your opinion, suggestion, or answer. This classroom should be a “safe” learning environment. Be respectful and accepting of others’ thought and ideas. Don’t put yourself or others down.

**Honors:**  As honors students, I will expect more from you than my other classes. Riverdale has chosen you as the top of your class and because of this you will be held to higher expectations. Your workload will be heavier and there will be a considerable amount of writing compared to other classes.

**Materials:** You will need to bring these materials to class every day in order to be prepared.\*\*\*

* Binder (1 or 1.5 inch): This binder will be used to create your portfolio at the end of each semester. You should keep all hand-outs, notes, in-class activities, and larger assignments in this binder.
* Loose-leaf paper: You will need loose-leaf paper in your binder for any notes we take throughout the year.
* Notebook: You will need either a composition book or college-ruled notebook to use as your journal for the year.
* Pens/Pencils: I am not particular about what you write with, as long as the color is legible. Please no yellow pens or any color highlighters when writing!
* Highlighter: You should plan on bringing a highlighter everyday – we will be doing a lot of close reading throughout the year (don’t worry if you don’t know what that means, that’s one of our first lessons ☺).
* Novel, short story, or textbook: You will need to bring whichever reading assignment we are working on for that day.

\*\*\*If for any reason you have difficulties getting these materials, please see my after class and we will work something out.

**Seating Chart:** You are allowed to pick your own seat; however, by the third day of school (in this year’s case, Friday, August 15), you need to have picked out where you plan to sit for the rest of the year. If you know you need to sit towards the front of the room or on the left or right side, you need to figure out the best place to sit by Friday. After Friday, I will make a seating chart to keep for future reference. I reserve the right to move you somewhere else in the room if you are causing a disturbance to either your classmates or to myself.

**Grading:**Grading is based on a points scale that includes bell-ringers, journals, in-class assignments, homework, and any other large assignments that are given. There will also be a participation grade each week. Each day you will have the chance to earn 2 points, for a total of 10 points a week. One point a day is for coming to class prepared with everything you will need. The 2nd point is for being an active participant in class. This means paying attention to your classmates and me, answering questions, doing your share during group work, etc. While 2 points per day may not sound like much, 10 points a week adds up quickly when there is 9 week per quarter.

Grading Scale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | 100-95 |
| A- | 94-93 |
| B+ | 92-90 |
| B | 89-86 |
| B- | 85-84 |
| C+ | 83-80 |
| C | 79-75 |
| C- | 73-73 |
| D+ | 72-70 |
| D | 69-67 |
| D | 66-65 |
| F | 64 - 0 |

**Homework:** Homework will not be given every night; however, when homework is assigned, it is due back when class begins the next day, unless otherwise stated by me.

**Late Work:** Any homework assignment not turned in on the due date without a proper excuse will result in a loss of one letter grade per day on the assignment.

**Absences:**There will five file folders located on my desk labeled Monday through Friday. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility, not mine, to make sure you check the folder corresponding to the days you are missing. Any missed assignment is due the following day after you come back, unless otherwise noted by me.

**Tardies:** According to the student handbook: “Students will be counted tardy to school or class(es) when they arrive within 10 minutes after the final bell. (After 10 or more minutes, students will be considered truant.)”  In my classroom, you will be considered tardy if you are not in the room, sitting at your desk, and working on your bell ringer. The only reason you will not be counted tardy is if you have a pass from the teacher’s class that you just came from. You will not be allowed to go back and get a pass. I will follow the tardy policy stated by Riverdale High School.

**Classroom Library:** I keep a large collection of books in my room for anyone to check out. If you would like to check out a book all you need to do is bring the book to me so I can record your name, the title of the book, and the date you are checking the book out. You may check out books for two weeks; however, if you need renew the book in order to finish it, simply let me know. If you lose a book or do not return it before the end of each semester, you are responsible for the cost of the book. Also, there are many books on my shelf that I have not read, which means I want to hear about them! Tell me about the books you are reading, I love to hear what other people are thinking as they read! ☺

**Laptops:** This year we will be using a brand new set of Google Chromebooks. These laptops are to stay in the classroom, no matter what. You will not be able to rent one to take home or to use in another class. Each student will be assigned a number and they are to use ONLY the laptop that corresponds to their number. These laptops run off of Google Drive which means as long as you have internet access at home, you do not need to use a jump drive to save your work. If, for some reason, you do not have internet access at home, please let me know so we can make other arrangements.

**Cell Phones:** In my classroom cell phones will be used to enhance the learning process. Some days I will ask you to use your phones for various reasons. However, if for any reason, I catch you using your phone for something other than a school related purpose, I will follow the guidelines set forth in the student handbook.

“If a student’s cell phone/electronic device interrupts classroom instruction, in any way, they are subject to the following consequences: a. First Offense - Cell phone will be confiscated. Student may pick it up after school. b. Second and Addition Offenses - Cell phone will be confiscated and student will be assigned ½ Saturday School. Student may pick up their phone after school. Failure to serve will result in a full Saturday School and student must take all finals. c. If use during school becomes chronic (more than 2), full Saturday assigned and student must take all finals.”

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be taken lightly by myself or the school district. To me, plagiarism is not only a form of cheating, but a form of disrespect as well. You have not respected yourself and your abilities and you have not respected me, as your teacher. I will follow all policies regarding plagiarism that are stated in the student handbook.

“According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, to “plagiarize” means:

1. to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own.

2. to use another’s production without crediting source.

3. to commit literacy theft.

4. to express as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

Plagiarism refers to a form of cheating that has been defined as the false assumption of authorship which is the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind and presenting it as one’s own. To use another person’s ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source is to plagiarize. We acknowledge that plagiarism may be unintentional; however, all students will be held accountable for violations of the plagiarism policy. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

* Lack of documentation for information as brief as a phrase, sentence or idea taken from another source (often referred to as “Cut and Paste Plagiarism”).
* Electronic reproduction, audio, visual, verbal and written media whether published or unpublished in whole or part without proper acknowledgement that it is someone else’s.
* Falsification of documentation-purposefully citing incorrect source information.
* Double Submission, (submitting the same work for credit in more than one course) unless approved beforehand by course instructors.
* Allowing another student to use your work as his/her own. In such cases, both students will be held accountable.

Description of Infractions & Consequences:

Level One: The majority of the work is original: however, the student failed to document at least one phrase, sentence or idea. Typical disciplinary actions that can occur:

* Parent notification by teacher
* Grade reduction

Level Two: Significant portions of the work are proven not to be the student’s own and lack documentation. Typical disciplinary actions that can occur:

* Conference between parent, teacher, student and administrator22
* Zero on the assignment with an opportunity to re-submit for a maximum of half credit
* At high school – levels 2,3,4 infraction – no exam waiver

Level Three: Most or all of the work is proven not to be the student’s own. Typical disciplinary actions that can occur:

* Conference between parent, teacher, counselor, student and administrator
* Zero on the assignment with an opportunity to re-submit for a maximum of half credit
* Administrative actions such as: detention, suspension

Level Four: Student has violated the plagiarism policy on more than one occasion and/or in more than one course. Typical disciplinary actions that can occur:

* Conference between parent, teacher, counselor, student and administrator
* Zero on the assignment and no opportunity to re-submit
* Required administrative actions such as: detention, suspension”

Most importantly, I want everyone to have a FUN first year at RHS! ☺