

English II Syllabus

Ms. Crespo

2011-2012

Objectives

These will be our *course objectives* for the year. With hard work and dedication, we can accomplish this and much more:

- Improve your reading, writing, critical thinking, listening, and speaking skills.
- Explore the various forms of American Literature.
- Develop a portfolio of writing that shows personal and academic growth.
- Hone your analytical skills, for use in both school and the real world.
- Expand your vocabulary.
- Communicate effectively through class discussion.
- Learn how to become an independent, free-thinking, individual.

Grade Break-down:

30% Tests/Projects

30% Writing Assignments

20% Quizzes

20% Homework & Classwork

Due Dates: Due dates are crucial in the real world, and are just as critical in school. *Work not handed in on the due date will not be accepted the day after. If you are absent on the day of a test, project or major writing assignment, you will only be allowed to make up any work if your absence is authorized as an excused absence. (Death in family, doctors note etc. A hand-written note from your parent is not considered excused.)*

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is the unauthorized, uncited use of another person's words and/or ideas. Cheating includes copying; sharing; and using "cheat sheets" or other written, verbal, or electronic information which is not your own. Both are illegal, and neither is tolerated in my classroom or at PAHS. Any such activity will result in receiving a zero any assignment that represents the use of plagiarism.

Midterm and Final Exams: The midterm and final exams do count toward your final

average for the year. So take them seriously!

Homework: The nature of this course mandates that a fair amount of work be done outside the classroom; these assignments will be categorized as Projects/Writing Assignments/Homework. If you are not present in the class, you must hand in the homework and any other assignments the following class period. (Remember this does not apply to essays only homework assignments). If you are absent you must see me for the work you missed, *on the day of your return*. I will not come to you. ***You are expected to be an active participant in class, and you can only do so by being prepared (with all supplies, books, and completed work) each and every day.***

Rules and Regulations:

1. Please be in your seat working on the “Do Now” when the bell rings.
2. Please bring appropriate thoughts, materials, and language to class (cursing is for those who do not know how to properly express themselves and failure to speak properly will not be tolerated).
3. Please do not ask to leave the room for anything short of an emergency. Seriously.
4. Please extend your time and attention to the class. Disruptions will not be tolerated.
5. Show respect for the teacher, your classmates and the classroom.
6. Electronic devices are prohibited while on school grounds. If seen, it will be taken and given to the principal and will not be returned until a parent comes to retrieve it.
7. All rules listed in the PAHS Code of Conduct will be followed!

Expectations:

“With every mistake, we must surely be learning.”

—George Harrison, of the Beatles, from the song *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*.

To truly learn, we must make mistakes. It's inevitable. In life, we take advice from

those older than us, we ignore advice from those older than us, and we make mistakes either way. In this classroom, I hope we can share an environment where there is room for error, because that translates into room for learning. If anyone is afraid of “sounding dumb” or providing the wrong answer, that person's ability to learn is diminished and hindered. The grading and assignments in this classroom will be fair and considerate, with the idea in mind that it is not always the end goal that is worthy, but the journey itself. You will have many opportunities to practice the skills we are trying to develop. That's the part I will play in encouraging your learning.

On the other side of that is **you**.

What is required of you is respect for everyone in our classroom. That's a cheap, overplayed word these days. Respect, respect, respect. We hear it everywhere, but do we ever stop to think what it requires of us? We must show regard and consideration for those around us, always mindful that we would never want to be mistreated or made fun of, and so we should not expect that someone else wouldn't mind.

I see learning as a collaborative process; a two-way street. I don't plan to preach or to dump my worldly knowledge on you. I hope instead to attain something that can only come through input from both teacher and student: something completely new. I hope to learn as much from you as you hope to learn from me.

Assistance:

I am always available if you have any questions, concerns, or requests. My e-mail address is rosacrespo@paps.net ; this is the best way to contact me. Additionally, I can be found in my classroom (Room 219) after school.

Please sign and date this form to indicate your compliance with the stated rules

and regulations of the class. Please consider this your first homework assignment for the year.

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date