



English II Honors Course Outline, Classroom Policies and Expectations

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Conference Period: 4th/6th

Room: B127

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! One of our goals for this school year is to develop our abilities as readers and writers through the study of literature, composition, and vocabulary. As a class, we will strive to become a *community* of readers and writers. You will be challenged to use higher level thinking skills, to make connections to the world around you, and to take a critical look at visual media, music, art, and literature. As you grow in your academic pursuits this year, I hope that you will find English interesting and relative to you and your experiences in life.

I follow a philosophy of personal responsibility. By this, I mean that I expect **everyone** (myself included) to take responsibility for learning. **As a teacher**, I am responsible for providing a caring, positive, and productive learning environment; to plan and organize my lessons appropriately; to provide purposeful instruction, and to be respectful and professional in my manners and actions. What I cannot do is *force* anyone to learn. This is the choice and responsibility of you, **the student**. I encourage each of you to challenge yourself to achieve by setting your expectations high. For some of you, this may be reached through a series of small successes. For others, larger goals may be sought. Regardless, I am committed to making every effort to provide avenues to help you find meaning in your learning.

As parents, I hope you will encourage and develop your child's interest in learning. I invite you to participate actively in the process by allowing your child to share his/her experiences with you. Ask questions about my instruction and assignments. Provide help when needed, yet allow independent completion of his/her own work. Contact me with concerns. Provide *constructive* feedback that may help me develop as a teacher. Read the same reading assignments (even if you have read it before). Praise his/her accomplishments and create even higher expectations.

Expectations:

- **Be Respectful**
- **Be On Time**
- **Be in Line with School Policies**
- **Be Present - an Active Learner**
- **Be Patient and Flexible**

Course Description:

Honors English II addresses the state TEKS for English II and prepares students for the academic rigor and college level environment of upper-level AP® English courses. A greater emphasis on reading nonfiction and analyzing rhetorical elements makes this a challenging course. In addition to writing fiction, students apply rhetorical skills to their nonfiction writing. Students should be self-motivated and apply time management and organization skills necessary to complete out-of-class assignments. Students should expect to spend time

reading and learning about current events. For more information on AP®, courses go to <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home>.

Supplies:

- Composition Notebook (100 sheet, College ruled, any color or appropriate design) - Used daily and kept with the student.
- Optional - Folder with pockets, 3-ring binder, or other organizational system - For personal organization and kept with the student.
- Notebook Paper, Highlighters, Pens, Pencils - For note-taking
- **While I do my best to provide for our students' needs as far as class supplies, please consider small donations, if ever possible. Feel free to contact me or ask your student if it appears our class may be in need of supplies and how you can help.**
- **Please consider purchasing other supplies for your student if you prefer not to use any shared supplies (markers, ruler, stapler, pens/pencils, etc).**

**Your child should have purchased a copy of their chosen Summer Reading novel so he/she can take notes and highlight in the book.

Literature Focus:

- *Selected Summer Reading Novel*
- *Night*
- *Antigone*
- Selected Non-Fiction Articles
- Selected Short Stories and Poems

Writing Focus:

- Persuasive/Argumentative Writing
- Analytical Writing for Literary Analysis

Independent Reading:

As an English Department, our goal is to establish a “**reading habit**” in the lives of our students. Each student will be required to do independent reading (choice read) each nine weeks. Please encourage your students to find books that interest them. **Outside reading is highly encouraged to be successful in this course. (see the [BISD ELAR webpage](#) and the [BISD Classroom Library Use Agreement Letter](#) posted in Skyward.**

Absences (Make-up Work):

If you are absent, please check Google Classroom before asking what we did in class. There is a shared English II Honors Repository Document that all students will have access to that provides links to the presentations, handouts, and assignments. I will also post many assignments and handouts in Google Classroom. Make-up work is your responsibility. If you know you are going to be absent, check with me before you leave school for the assignment. If this is not possible, you have one day per missed class to submit your make-up work.

For example, if a student misses 2nd Period on Monday and returns to 2nd Period on Wednesday, his/her make-up work is due at the beginning of 2nd Period on Friday.

Students will be required to take a test or quiz on the day returning from an absence if the test or quiz was announced prior to the absence. I am available before and after school for make-up, and I can also help with any other assignments at this time.

Late Assignments:

CHS Policy: Late work must be submitted by the end of the three-week grading period in which it was originally due. One class period late = 70% credit. Two or more class periods = 50% credit. A zero will be issued unless the work is turned in by the end of the three-week grading period.

Grading and Parent Portal:

It is the student's responsibility to track his or her grade accumulated in the class. Once progress reports are mailed, it is too late to correct missing assignments or low major grades. It is highly recommended that students monitor grades on a weekly, if not daily basis. The Parent Portal is the district site that allows access to all your teachers' gradebooks. You will not have access to this site until after the 3rd week of school, so please contact me before that with any questions you may have about your progress in class. The link, as well as passwords and usernames, will be sent home in the mail around the 3rd week of school. **If you do not receive this important notification in the mail, please contact our registrar at CHS.**

Grading Guidelines:

- 50% Daily (7 minimum) - pop quizzes, class work, homework, reading quizzes, participation
- 50% Major (2 minimum) - major essays, exams, projects, timed writing

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is expected at all times. Don't plagiarize; don't copy. Academic dishonesty will affect grades and may be the cause of a disciplinary referral as well. See the BISD Student Handbook for further details about academic dishonesty and the potential penalties.

Electronics are allowed **only** at my discretion. There will be many opportunities to use personal technology for instructional purposes, but as a general rule, all devices should be set to **off** and put away in a bookbag (**including earbuds**) unless instructed otherwise.

Google:

All Students have a district Google account. I will distribute your usernames and passwords during the first week of school. We will use several programs that require this username and password.