

Parents and Students: This is a class syllabus that I have incorporated for my class this year. It is of benefit to all of us to look it over and discuss this plan before you sign and return it.

Course Content: This course is designed to meet curriculum guidelines that the Riverside Unified School District has established to meet the state standards for sophomore students. We will study several works of popular contemporary and classic literature as well as study several different writing techniques.

Class Objective: To offer the students quality instruction in literature that transcends the standards and promotes an appreciation and understanding of literature, a growing sophistication of writing and life long learning.

Class Procedures: All students are expected to follow these rules to promote safe and effective learning.

1. Students will be seated and ready to work when the bell rings.
2. Students will have their class folder, paper, pen and outside reading book in class every day.
3. Students and teacher will respect the property of the school and others in the class.
4. Students and the teacher will respect the right of others to talk and be heard.
5. Students can eat or drink in class as long as their trash is thrown away.
6. Students will not leave the class until excused by the teacher and will leave it neat and clean.
7. Restrooms use at any time. No need to ask. Grab the pass and GO!

Class Assignments: All home and class work is due on the assigned dates. The assignments will be collected at the beginning of the class period. There will be **no late work** (other than two assignments using the late work pass) accepted unless it is late due to an excused absence. If a student does not get an absence cleared within two days or if the student is truant, work must still be completed but will receive no credit. Each student will receive two (2) Late Work Passes per semester to use in case of an emergency.

Class Tests and Quizzes: All tests will be announced. There will be no pop quizzes, unless class discussions are not productive. Most weeks we will have a test on the first day of the week. If a test is missed due to an excused absence, it must be made up within one week.

Writing: In this class we will write at three different levels. Level one is note taking. Students are responsible to keep up with all notes and keep them organized in their class binder. Level two writing is journals, quick writes and assignments that ask the students to respond or reflect on specific literature. Level three writing is the essay. ***All essays in this class will be typed.*** It is of benefit to the student if papers are saved on a computer and put in their **Google account**. Students are allowed to rewrite most essays as many times as they want to improve their score.

Grammar and Writing Practice: All class periods will begin with a ten minute exercise which will prepare our students for upcoming mandated tests or a period of writing practice. This will be worth 10 points. To get these points, students cannot be tardy and must have proper books or materials.

Outside Reading: Each student will be required to read 250 pages of outside material of their choice per semester. The students may choose any book (from the Honors Book List with no exceptions) and **they must Active Read.** Grading will be based on Active Reading, an oral question and a short book report. Outside reading is approximately 10% of the semester grade.

Grading: Your semester grade will be an average of all test, quiz, assignment, project, outside reading and SAT9 Prep scores. The first and third quarter grades are merely progress reports. A student's grade will continue on through the remainder of the semester.

Finals: Each semester final will affect the above semester grade according to the grade received on the test.

- A= Semester grade goes up 3%
- B= Semester grade goes up 1%
- C= Semester grade does not change
- D= Semester grade goes down 1%
- F= Semester grade goes down 3%

Attendance: The grade that each student earns in the class is a class participation grade. To pass the class a student must be here. The grade will be affected by excessive absences. Students are expected to be responsible to complete any work missed due to an absence.

Parent/Teacher Communication: Our goal as parents and teachers is the success of your child. The classroom door is always open. There will be Language Arts Department Tutoring in this room Monday through Thursday during lunch. Please feel free to contact me at school (789-5690) or send E-mail to rwarren@iversideunified.org. I also have a web page that will post all assignments and due dates on a daily basis. The web page address is... <http://www.warrenmlk.com>. Heck, you can even text me on my cell: 951-880-4804

Supplies Needed: Each student will need the following...

1. Three Ring Binder (This will be our "Working Portfolio" and must be kept in class)
2. Five Divider Pages for binder
3. Paper, pens and highlighter
4. Outside Book(s) that can be written in. NO LIBRARY BOOKS!

Extra Credit: Students are encouraged to expand on any subject, author, piece of literature or writing in any way! For example, five extra points will be given if assignments are neatly typed. See my website for details

Areas of Study

First Semester

- 1) Short Story and Literary Elements
- 2) The Count of Monte Cristo
- 3) Twelve Angry Men

Second Semester

- 1) *Julius Caesar*
- 2) Lord of the Flies
- 3) Poetry
- 4) Night

Lastly: Plagiarism: We are going to write in this class. If you write well already, you will learn to write even better. If you struggle with writing, you will learn some writing skills and techniques that will improve your writing. We will also learn what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. After our "Plagiarism" discussion, any paper that is plagiarized will receive a failing grade and the paper will be sent to the administration.

Please sign and return this syllabus plan to the teacher for 100 class assignment points. If additional copies of this are needed, please return the signed copy and I will send home another.

Parent Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Student Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____