

Humanities

9th Grade
Carol Cabrera

"We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for...You are here...life exists, and identity; that the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. That the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?"

~John Keating *ala Robin Williams* in *Dead Poets Society*

Contact Information

Email: ccabrera@hightechhigh.org

Phone: 6192532368

Digital Portfolio: misscarolcabrera.weebly.com

My digital portfolio Daily Schedule link has detailed information on assignments, due dates and other important project information.

Team Website: <http://9thgradehthnc.weebly.com>

Text Reminders: Text [@carolcab](https://t.me/carolcab) to [81010](https://t.me/81010) to receive reminders for my class/our team

Class Vision

Students in this classroom will develop skills as readers, writers and critical thinkers through the reading and analyzing of classic texts, thematically related contemporary texts and the discussion of history. As a class, we will grow our minds and hearts. Students will ask questions, explore through hands-on creation, and they will learn to write analytically and creatively. Some driving questions that will propel us through the year:

**How can we develop and cultivate our empathy?*

**How can we become more conscious global citizens?*

**How can we live, act and work in a way that brings the most good into the world?*

*Semester 1

The Constitution of the State of California requires that we provide a public education to you free of charge. Subject to certain exceptions, your right to a free public education means that we cannot require you or your family to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity. Many families have been asking what supplies their child may need during this school year. Below, I have a recommended list of supplies that your child may bring to school. Please note that if your child does not bring the recommended supplies, the school will provide the supplies for him/her. If you have any questions/comments about this, please contact me, or Isaac Jones, the school director. Thanks.

MATERIALS

Note: We will definitely begin with *12 Angry Men* and lead into *The House on Mango Street*. The timing of the other two novels may shift/change depending on exhibition and the timing of all of our team activities/classes.

Semester 1 Novels:

- **12 Angry Men** by Reginald Rose (**9.00)

- **The House on Mango Street** by Sandra Cisneros (**\$7.11)
- **Night** by Elie Wiesel (**\$6.05)
- **I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou (**\$7.12)

**Semester 2 First Novel:*

- **Romeo and Juliet** (No Fear Shakespeare Edition) by William Shakespeare (**\$5.95)

Class Supplies:

- Many black pens (I suggest Bic pens!)
- Pack of different colored pens
- Pack of highlighters (at least 4 colors)
- 1 single subject spiral notebook (for notes)
- 1 composition notebook (for journals and free writes)
- 1 three ring binder 1 ½ inch
- A planner!

**A second semester syllabus will be handed out before winter break*

***These prices are based on new editions purchased at Barnes & Noble. Cheaper editions can be found on amazon.com!*

Challenge Options:

Challenge options will be available for students who are interested in deepening their Humanities studies even further. Usually, this will come in the form of additional writing or reading. Students are encouraged to take challenge options whenever they feel up to the task. Completing challenge options does not mean additional points for an assignment, but excellent completion of challenges may, every now and then, appear as extra credit on assignments in the gradebook.

Office Hours: I will be available in my office every week from 3:30pm-4:30pm on Wednesday afternoons and before school on Friday mornings from 7:30am-8:30am. I can be available on other days after school and during lunch by appointment--just let me know! Please ask for help if you need it! It's what I'm here for.

Remind: Parents & Students--Subscribe to my Text Reminders! You will receive occasional text messages from me regarding school work and other activities related to the Humanities!

remind.com/join/carolcab (Text @carolcab to 81010 to receive reminders for my class)

Grading:

All assignment grades will be updated on (generally) a weekly basis in a digital gradebook. The web address for this grade book is: <http://powerschool.hightechhigh.org/public/>. If a student/parent has misplaced their login and password information, please email Joanna Clark at jclark@hightechhigh.org.

Along with Mr. Schwartz, I use a point system and will be grading for the following learning outcomes throughout the school year: **content knowledge, collaboration, oral communication, written communication & work ethic.** There are rubrics for these outcomes up in both of our rooms and linked on

my DP.

Let's bust some myths... while we will be working on projects throughout the school year, I want to be very clear that students *will* take tests in this course. Students *will* have quizzes in this course. Students *will* have homework in this course. Students *will* write essays. This is, after all, a college prep school. Along with collaboration, I want my students to leave with a sense of academic skills as well as the skill of focus!

Late Work:

Late work should be completely avoided! Any late work will immediately score no higher than a 50% work ethic score--I will accept late work up to the end of a project. If the project has closed, any work done in that project will no longer be accepted.

Plagiarism/ Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students and will result in immediate action. Penalties entail receiving an automatic zero on the assignment and you will be required to write a reflective piece about the incident, which must be signed by your parents and will be placed in your permanent student file. Incidents such as these are reportable to colleges and universities (even if it occurs in the 9th grade). If there is a second incident, a committee will be called to assess the student's place at HTHNC. It is against High Tech High policy (and the law) to use another person's work as your own. Using another person's ideas or summaries is also a form of plagiarism. This is extremely serious and is taken extremely seriously.

What to Expect from Me

As a teacher, I am hyper aware that there is not a one-size fit all way to learn, so I will provide multiple avenues to access the same information. I will uphold high expectations—I know that students are capable of enormous achievement, and I will push them to be the best student and person they can possibly be. I started my teaching career by teaching playwriting through the California Playwrights' Project to grade levels 4th- 12th. After I earned a degree in Literature/Writing with an emphasis in poetry and playwriting as well as a degree in Theatre with an emphasis in Directing from the University of California, San Diego, I joined a branch of Americorp as an educator, where I first taught remedial English in Mississippi to 8th graders. I then moved to El Dorado, Arkansas where I taught 11th grade American Literature. Before coming to High Tech High North County, I helped found El Dorado New Tech High School, a project based learning public charter school in Arkansas. I taught integrated 9th grade English, Civics and Economics. Working at ENTHS as well as devouring New Tech Network Professional Development made me fall in love with the project-based learning environment. Family and the ocean and my voracious appetite for a blooming arts scene called me back to San Diego so I returned in 2013 to teach here at HTHNC. I completed my Masters in Teacher Leadership through High Tech High's Graduate School of Education in 2015, and then moved to New York city to pursue an MA in Art & Community Practice at New York University. During my time in New York, I aided in a 6th grade classroom at Nicholas Herkimer school part time. During the summer, I worked as a 2nd and 3rd grade playwriting teacher for the GO Project. I am extremely excited to return to my family here at HTHNC, and very excited to welcome you and yours as part of our world.

What I Expect of Students

I expect that students abide by all the policies delineated in the

High Tech High Student and Parent Handbook.

I expect that students clean after themselves and care after our shared learning space.

I expect students to be on time so that he or she doesn't miss out on their education!

If students are late, he or she should get a tardy slip at the front desk.

I expect students to be considerate of others in all ways.

I expect students to fight against apathy, to know that he or she deserves a bright and fulfilling future and to fight for his or her education in order to bring that future to fruition.

I expect students to try what is thrown at them. Students will constantly ask questions-- when struggling, when curious, when anxious, when excited. Students will be on a mission to succeed—this will manifest itself in student work that is an obvious representation of immense effort. Students will take pride in his or her work while respecting the world around him or her—this will result in work that is nothing less than the best that can be achieved. I call this feeling of pride THE PRIDE FACTOR and will talk about it a lot during the course of the year--your work is a representation of YOU! Take pride in it! Only turn in work that represents you the best!

The bottom line is this: **Students will be nice and students will work hard.**

Please read this syllabus in its entirety.
Return this page to Carol, signed by September 2nd for full Work Ethic Points!

Student Signature: X _____

Guardian Signature: X _____

Best Guardian Contact Information:

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Any comments we have for Carol:

Any questions we have for Carol:

Tell Carol a little bit about yourself and your family! What are some of your hobbies/interests/talents/skills/strengths? What are some of your favorite things to do as a family? Favorite places to visit or favorite places to eat? Share whatever you feel like sharing as a family!