

English 11 Course Syllabus 2025-2026

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Welcome to Castle Park High School! This English 11 course complements and expands on the 10th grade English content. It covers concepts of rhetoric and writing skills, including analysis and annotation of expository and literary texts. Students who master English 11 will gain experience with critical thinking and reading strategies, and each student will be equipped to write effective prose and analyze and dissect prompts. This course is the third course in the four-year college preparatory English sequence, which meets the UC/CSU “A-G” requirements. Please note that in order for the student to earn A-G credit for the course, students need to earn a scholarship grade of C or better.

What to Expect: This year, students will read texts including *The Crucible*, *Born a Crime* a collection of “This I Believe” essays, as well as excerpts from the novel *Undecided*. The English 11 HMH textbook will also be used. Students will keep volume 2 of the textbook in class.

Independent Study Assignments: All independent study assignments that run for more than a week will require students to complete work out of the HMH textbook and grammar book. Volume 1 and a copy of the grammar book have been provided for at-home use and will be utilized if students go out on Independent Study.

Grading Policy:

This class follows a standard grading scale. **We do not round up our grades; this means that an 89.9% is a B+.** Prior to the evaluation of work, multiple practice opportunities will be provided in class. My weighted categories are based on the target standards we will focus on this year.

Weighted Categories		<u>Grading Scale</u> A – 90% - 100% B – 80% - 89% C – 70% - 79% D – 60% - 69%
Writing and Analysis (Including Grammar)	35%	
Reading Comprehension and Analysis	25%	
Speaking & Listening (Discussions, Socratic Seminars, and Participation in group assignments)	10%	
Vocabulary Acquisition	15%	
Effective Effort	10%	
EOC	5%	
TOTAL	100%	

Failure grade: Students who do not demonstrate mastery of the standards will be in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade at the semester grading period. **It is difficult to prove that students are achieving mastery if they do not turn in any work.** This class is a graduation requirement; if you do not pass, you will need to make up these credits.

Citizenship grades: Students will be awarded citizenship grades based on their adherence to the classroom rules and expectations. Citizenship grades will also be based upon attendance. Any student with 5 or more unexcused absences or 5 or more tardies will be given an F in citizenship. You can clear your absences or tardiness by attending Saturday school.

Late Work Policy: A late assignment is worth (at the most) 70%. You will only earn a 70% if the assignment is thoroughly completed and accurate. Students with special circumstances should speak with us about extensions before the assignment is due to avoid the late work penalty. The late work penalty will go into effect at the end of each unit.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Plagiarism is defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. **Using AI tools like ChatGPT falls under cheating and plagiarism.** Students must submit work that is truly their own thinking and creating. **We do not accept work that has been copied and pasted from other sources.** Students who submit work that has been plagiarized will receive a failing grade on the assignment. It will be marked for plagiarism in the gradebook. **There is no option to redo assignments that have been plagiarized.**

Materials: Your supplies should be ready to use by the time the tardy bell rings. In this class, you will need your laptop and an 8 ½ by 11-inch notebook with lined pages. You will also need something to write with (a pen or pencil).

Notes on Essay Formatting, Mechanics, and Cheating:

- **Formatting:** All essays must be typed using MLA format which includes 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins on all sides. When required, all citations must be included in the works cited page.
- **Mechanics:** My expectation is that students follow basic capitalization and formatting rules. Work that fails to use proper punctuation and to capitalize the first letters of sentences, names, places, or any other proper noun will not be graded until mechanics are addressed.

Class Rules and Discipline Policy: The basic rules for student behavior are outlined in the Student Handbook.

My specific class rules are as follows:

1. Follow directions the FIRST time
2. Raise your hand to speak or leave your seat
3. Use language that is kind
4. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself
5. Use electronics only when given permission (this includes cellphones, laptops, and earbuds)

Cell Phone Use: Cell phones should be silenced and put away during class. CPH is adhering to the Phone-Free Schools Act (AB3216) that was passed in California last year. This means that students DO NOT have permission to use their phones while in class. If we see a student using their cell phone, it will be confiscated and turned in to the main office. If parents need to contact their students for emergency reasons, then they should call the main office. The phone number for the main office is: (619) 585-2000. It is a good idea to save this phone number in your cell phone so you know who to call in the event of an emergency.

Listening to Music: In our experience, listening to music during direct instruction or during times of collaborative work hinders students' ability to concentrate and participate. During these times, we expect that AirPods, earbuds, and headphones are put away. If we see students wearing or using these devices at inappropriate times, we will confiscate them and turn them in to the office. With that said, we do understand that some people are better able to focus on writing assignments while listening to music. There will be times when we allow students to choose a playlist to listen to. **THIS IS NOT PERMISSION TO USE A CELL PHONE.** The playlist must be selected from a website or app on their laptop. We have headphones that connect to the school-issued devices that students can use.

Hall Pass Use: Only one student may be out on the hall pass at a time. Students will be issued 7 hall passes for the semester. These passes will live in student notebooks and should be brought to class with the notebook every time we meet. If a student does not have their hall pass, they may not leave the room. If a student runs out of passes but has an emergency, we will gladly write them a pass to the nurse. If a student has special circumstances that require them to use the hall pass often, an official nurse/bathroom pass can be issued to them from the front office.

After Break and Lunch Tardy Policy: We understand that things happen in the morning that prevent students from coming to class on time. While we do not condone chronic tardiness, we do understand that the bus is sometimes late. **With that said, students who are tardy to class after break and lunch will receive consequences.** The first three times the student is tardy, they will stay after the bell during lunch or after school to serve an in-class detention. After the third tardy, we will write a referral, and the student will need to serve an after-school detention with the office.

Name: _____ Period: _____

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Signed Agreement Form

Message to Parents/Guardians:

We welcome visits, phone calls, and emails, so please feel free to contact us if there is something you would like to discuss. Email is probably the easiest way to get a hold of us. We do have access to translation services at CPH, so please feel free to contact us in whatever language is most comfortable for you!

Thank You,

Amy Fredricksen and Kristy Parcels
English Language Arts
Castle Park High School

Student Agreement

I, _____ have read and understood the course syllabus for English 11.
(Print your full name here.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/ Guardians: Please read the syllabus and discuss this class with your student(s). Thank you!

Printed Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____