

11th Grade English Course Description
Mrs. Edwards

COURSE OF STUDY:

In this class we will make connections between history and literature, develop our writing, research, reading and speaking skills, and strengthen our vocabulary. We will read a variety of texts and will complete writing tasks designed to expand your knowledge about themes related to your yearlong study of changes in society.

READING:

1st semester:

Beowulf

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Canterbury Tales (Prologue + 2 Tales)

2nd semester:

Macbeth

Candide

*Fahrenheit 451**

*subject to change based on time

WRITING WORKSHOP:

Throughout this course, students will need to build upon their knowledge of narrative, informational and persuasive writing styles and learn to incorporate clearly defined thesis statements, smooth transition sentences, and various organizational strategies into their writing. Students will adhere to a regimented, long-term schedule that requires them to upload pieces to turnitin.com and assess peer work.

HARKNESS:

As per Wikipedia: “The Harkness table refers to a style of teaching wherein students sit at a large, oval table with their teachers. It encourages classes to be held in a discursive manner... [T]he method's name comes from the oil magnate and philanthropist Edward Harkness, a graduate of St. Paul's School (Concord, NH) who presented the school with a monetary gift in 1930. He described its use as follows: What I have in mind is [a classroom] where [students] could sit around a table with a teacher who would talk with them and instruct them by a sort of tutorial or conference method, where [each student] would feel encouraged to speak up. This would be a real revolution in methods.”

Harkness is student-run, with very little teacher input given. Everything will be fair game – assigned readings, SSR readings, blog assignments – and students will be assessed on the amount and quality of their participation. Be prepared for class each day because you never know if it'll be a Harkness day.

CLASS BLOG/SCRIBES:

<http://ipolyenglish11.wordpress.com/>

Try to make visits to the blog a regular part of your routine. Here you will find copies of any work assigned each day, extra credit opportunities and other miscellaneous points of interest. Feel free to nag me to update this, at least half as often as Mr. Hedman does his. Scribe duties will be linked to this main blog. See class blog/handouts for details on scribes.

WHAT I NEED TO BRING TO CLASS EACH DAY:

- 1) Something to write with – a pencil or pen (black or blue ink – no gel pens, markers or crayons)
- 2) Class notebook - for English use only
- 3) jump/flash drive (at least 1 GB)
- 4) Your book/readings/SSR choice
- 5) OPTIONAL BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: A student planner – to help you keep track of homework assignments and upcoming projects

MRS. EDWARDS' WISH LIST:

tissue boxes (Puffs w/ lotion)
EXPO markers in different colors (except yellow)
glue sticks
Clorox/Lysol wipes
Band-aids
Safety pins

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

- 1) Be respectful.
Students will demonstrate respect for other students and the teacher by using appropriate language, being prepared for class, following directions, adhering to all school policies, and by keeping an open mind when learning about different cultures, traditions, beliefs and life styles.
- 2) Be prepared.
Always come to class prepared. This means coming into class and being seated promptly at the beginning of the block, bringing your materials and SSR choice each day, completing homework on time, and completing the assigned reading each night. In addition, your presence in the classroom is essential to your success. Tardiness and unexcused absences will have an adverse effect on your grade.
- 3) Expect great things from yourself and your peers.
Your attitude plays an important role in your education. If you believe you can succeed – you can! Encourage your classmates to succeed too.
- 4) Take ownership of your education.

Take personal responsibility for your learning: set goals, evaluate progress towards those goals, adhere to high standards and revise your performance when needed. You can also take responsibility for your learning by asking questions when something is unclear, participating in classroom discussions and asking for extra help if you need it. Take ownership of your classroom. This is your space and your area to learn; help keep it clean and organized. This is your education – get everything you can out of it!

HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

- * All assignments, unless otherwise specified, must be word processed using 10-12 point, Times New Roman font, 1.5 or double spaced.
- * Copying, cheating, or plagiarizing are grounds for failing the assignment.
- * In order to receive full credit on all assignments, students must turn in their work on the designated due date. The 11th grade team does not accept any late work.
- * Make-up work for daily class/homework is allowed for excused absences and must be turned in on the next class meeting after the student's return.
- * Long-term assignments must be turned in on the day they are due – regardless of excused absence – or an automatic NC will be given.
- * Revisions for any work (project components, formal essays, etc.) will be allowed only for work that has received a CR or lower.

GRADES:

You must submit all assignments on time to be eligible for full credit.

AE=90% - 99% P=80% - 89% AP=70% - 79% CR=60% - 69% NC=0% - 59%

Grades are weighted as follows:

30% - project

20% - core

15% - writing workshop

10% - SSR

10% - blog/scribe

15% - final

HOW TO CONTACT MRS. EDWARDS:

I will be at school each day between 7:45am – 2:55pm. You will either find me in room 2008 or in one of the other 11th grade teachers' classrooms. Please do not hesitate to find me if you have questions. For individual academic and/or personal concerns, an appointment would be much appreciated.

Email: mtsedwards@gmail.com

I have read the 11th Grade English Course Description. I agree to comply by the rules and abide by the consequences. I understand the grading policy and will strive for excellence this year.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____

I have read the 11th Grade English Course Description. I understand that my child must comply by the rules and abide by the consequences. I acknowledge the grading policy and will help my child strive for excellence this year.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____