



Character * Leadership * Attitude * Scholarship * Service

Vista Murrieta High School
Kurt Olson
English 1 Advanced: 2011-2012
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Course Description

In this course, students will read and analyze the following: short stories, poetry (minimal), novel, drama, and essay. As an instructor, I focus heavily on the California State Standards that deal with reading comprehension, literary response and analysis, writing strategies, writing conventions, word analysis and vocabulary attainment. Since there is little data that shows correlation between the instruction of grammar and the improvement of writing and reading, I only cover the minimal amount of grammar required by the standards; I do this in order to spend more focus on the standards that demand critical thinking. Ultimately, this better prepares students for the critical thinking that future classes (and college) will require.

Course Texts

Glencoe Literature (Green), by Glencoe/Hall-McGraw

- *The Odyssey*, by Homer
- *Romeo and Juliet*, by William Shakespeare
- Short Stories, Novels, and Poems

Course Novels

- *The Pearl*, by John Steinbeck (Students Must Purchase)
- *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

Classroom Rules: The Four Be's

- ♦ Be on Time. Detentions will be assigned for all unexcused tardies, and Saturday School will be assigned if detentions aren't correcting the problem.
- ♦ Be prepared for class by having the necessary materials with you as well as the homework completed.
- ♦ Be respectful to all (including the actual class; keep it clean). When respect is not given to fellow classmates and/or the teacher, the educational process becomes disrupted. This cannot be tolerated. I respect my students and I require respect to be given in return. All students have the right to learn, and no student has the right to take away learning from others by disrupting the educational process. Consequences will be swift if this occurs.
- ♦ Be attentive. Any departure from the above could result in disciplinary consequences. Obviously, a teacher must maintain an environment that promotes learning. Anything less is unacceptable and unhealthy for the students, school and community.

Grades

All grades are based on a cumulative point system. The following is an approximation (can vary by a couple percentage points) for my grading.

Grade Percentages

Class work and Homework = 30%

Major Projects/Essays = 30%

Unit Tests and Quizzes = 30%

Semester Finals = 10%

Grading Scale: (+/- used in scale)

100 – 90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59.9 and below F

Make-up Work Policy

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get all make-up work. Remember, it is your grade so be responsible for it.

- Students returning from an absence have **one school day for each day of absence to make up missed assignments.**
- Work cannot be made up if absence or tardy is unexcused.
- Exams and quizzes not made up within five days of the absence will become a "0".
- If you are absent on the day a major assignment is due (e.g. research paper), parents will be contacted.

If you have any questions, please see me before or after school. E-mails are welcome.

Homework Policy

- Homework will be nearly nightly, including weekends and (and maybe holidays).
- Homework will not be accepted late unless previously cleared with the teacher or in the event of an emergency. The teacher will determine what is or is not an emergency.
- Students are responsible for contacting their fellow students to receive homework instructions that were missed due to an absence (or absences). Students have exchanged phone numbers in class to accommodate this. Hence, homework, be it writing or reading, will be collected/assessed immediately upon return from the day/s they missed as well as the current day.

Late homework will not be accepted unless a student clears it with me in advance, has an emergency surface (I will decide if it is an emergency) or has an excused absence. I do not waiver on this policy.

Sincerely,

Kurt Olson