

Pre-AP English II Course Policy and Syllabus Rockwall-Heath High School 2018-2019

Mrs. Gonzales

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COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

All students enrolled in Pre-AP English II will work to increase and refine their reading and writing skills. Students are expected to plan and complete written compositions in a timed setting on a regular basis. Students will produce papers with clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of conventions and mechanics of written English to produce error-free writing. Students will read extensively from novels, selected short stories, poetry and speeches. Students will also be asked to select books of their own choice for book clubs & reader's/writer's workshop. Students will learn literary forms and terms associated with selections being read, and interpret the influences of historical context on each literary work.

Pre-AP students will also be expected to dig beneath the surface beyond what they might experience in a standard English program. The program will cover a vast assortment of literature, writing skills, and preparation for standardized exams. The class will have three primary modes: reading, writing, and Socratic discussions.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- Please be **on time** to class. There will be a warm up every day; please be at your desk working by the time the bell rings. Attendance will be recorded at this time.
- Use your time **before class** or **after class** to use the restroom, sharpen your pencil, charge your phone, get a drink of water, etc. *Please do not interrupt class to do these things unless it is an emergency.*
- The use of cell phones and other electronic devices will not be permitted **during class time**. During instruction, quizzes, and tests, use of these items will NOT be permitted.

SUPPLIES

- **A writing utensil.** When writing in pen, please use **blue or black ink only**.
- **A spiral** to be kept in the classroom as your **Drafting/Notes Notebook**. Use a Sharpie to write your name on the front cover.
- **Colored pens (5 different colors)**
- **Highlighters (5 different colors)**
- **Tissues** are a high-need item, as we typically run out early in the year. Please donate a box or two to help with the shortage.

TEXTBOOKS AND NOVELS

Pre-AP English II does **not** require a textbook. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase their own copies of each novel so that they may annotate while they read.

Books that students will need to purchase for Pre-AP English II (carefully find the correct translation)

Term 1: *Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury; Dystopian novel (selected from teacher options); and Choice reading*
Term 2-4: To Be Determined

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

- If you are absent from class, you will have **one class period for each day you were absent** to make up and turn in missed work (90 min. Block ex: absent Monday, get work Wednesday, turn in Friday), except for long-term assignments that have had clear due dates posted well in advance. These assignments must be turned in upon your return to school.
- **YOU** are responsible for getting your make-up work. All assignments will be listed on the class agenda *posted in Google Classroom*. It is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain **YOUR** make-up work. If you miss a quiz or test during your absence, **YOU** must make arrangements to make up the quiz or test as soon as possible.

GRADING POLICY

- **Formative grades**, including all daily assignments, quizzes, and participation, will count as **30%** of your six weeks' grades. **Summative grades**, which include tests, seminars, and essays/papers, will count for the other **70%** of your six weeks' grades. **Semester exams** count for **10%** of your semester grades.
- Per district policy, if you fail certain assignments, you have the opportunity to redo the assignment.
 - Daily Work: Students may turn in daily work late, up to two class periods after the due date. 1 class period late -15; 2 class periods late -30; 3+ class periods late, work will not be accepted.
 - Tests may be retaken. The original and new score will average together for no higher than a 70.

- All essays may be revised and resubmitted one time for up to a possible 80. To qualify for a redo, students must conference with me before making any revisions. They will be regraded on the same AP scale.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

- Rockwall ISD does not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Cheating on any assignment may result in an automatic zero, disciplinary action, and even loss of course credit.
- **Plagiarism** is a form of cheating that is intolerable in any academic setting. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words or ideas as if they were your own, ***even if it is unintentional***. To avoid plagiarism, it is important to give credit to any and all sources used in your work. Plagiarism of ANY assignment results in an automatic 0. There will be NO redos for assignments resulting in a 0 for **cheating or plagiarism**.
- **Other examples of academic dishonesty:** copying the work of another student; being in possession of the work of another student; taking a photograph of a student's work with the intention to copy or distribute it; giving information to or receiving information from another student during a test or quiz; and being in possession of unauthorized information during an assessment, including delivered electronically.

Extra Credit

Because students need to devote themselves to the demanding tasks of the class, extra credit work is not an option. If students take advantage of the opportunities provided in the course of study, they will not have time or need "extra" or additional work. Other than opportunities for extra points that will sometimes be built into assignments, no extra credit is available.

Ms. Gonzales' Mottos:

- If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you.
- You **MUST** plan for emergencies in advance because emergencies always happen when they are least convenient.
- **Ability** is what you're capable of doing; **motivation** determines what you do; **attitude** determines how well you do it..

COMMUNICATION

My preferred method of direct communication is email; you may contact me at any time with questions or concerns at christi.gonzales@rockwallisd.org

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

You will be given a code for this course. I use Remind to send out reminders, of course, but also to send helpful hints on upcoming assignments, communicate changes in due dates, and more!

CELL PHONE POLICY

- ALL students' cell phones are to be placed in the numbered pocket that matches their assigned desk number.
- ALL phones are to be in their correct pocket BEFORE the tardy bell rings.
- ALL phones are to be on SILENT & turn OFF VIBRATE and FLASHING LIGHT
- ALL phones should be upside down and facing the wall.
- ALL phones stay in pocket until Mrs. G. says otherwise.
- Smart watches are ok to wear, but no texting or answering phone calls during class & they must also remain on silent.
- VIOLATIONS:
 - 1st violation: Mrs. G. takes phone until the end of the school day.
 - 2nd violation: Mrs. G. takes phone until the end of the day, contacts parents, and writes a warning discipline referral.
 - 3rd violation: Mrs. G. takes phone until the end of the day, contacts parents, and writes a discipline referral.
 - ANY violation that occurs during a quiz or test, will result in a 0 on the assignment (teacher discretion).

TUTORIALS

Students may use tutorials to catch up on missed work due to absences, redo eligible assignments, or receive extra help on a particular assignment. Students are not limited to tutoring with their own English teacher, and are encouraged to utilize other English teachers' tutorial times if necessary. The Pre-AP English II tutorial schedule is:

Teacher (Room #)	Morning tutoring (8:00am)	Afternoon tutoring (3:50pm)
Ms. Cross (3210)	Tuesday & Thursday	Tuesday & Thursday
Mrs. Cypert (3410)	Thursday & Friday	Wednesday
Mrs. Gonzales(3208)	Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	