English II Syllabus

Welcome to English II! My name is Miss Hetherington and I will be your English teacher for the remainder of the school year. I’m looking forward to meeting all of you and getting to know you over the next few months. Below is a brief outline of what you can expect from this course and from me. In a way, it’s also a list of things I expect from you so that we can have a productive and meaningful class.

1. Attendance expectations – Logging in to live lessons is the number one way for you to succeed in this course. All live lessons will have important information to help you navigate assignments and due dates. Of course, each live lesson will be recorded and posted on a daily basis; if you are not able to log in for class time, you should log on later in the day to watch the recording and complete any assignments.
2. Late work policy – I’m sure you’ve heard this before from other teachers, but part of my job is to make sure that you all become functioning, contributing members of society as an adult. The best way I know how to do this is to hold you accountable to expectations. While I expect you to do all assignments on time, we all know that situations may arise that prevent you from submitting your work before the deadline. For this reason, the Cyber Academy has adopted a 14-day grace period that allows you submit assignments up to 14 days past the original due date. For this class, I do not deduct late points when you submit an assignment late. It is important to note, however, that after the 14-day grace period, the assignment is no longer accepted. Assignments that are not turned in before the final deadline will receive a zero in Skyward.
3. Class behaviors – Because this is a literature class, there may be times when I ask the class to participate in discussion. For all class interactions, I expect the following:
   1. **Respect your classmates and yourself**. We may have discussions about controversial topics. It’s okay if you don’t agree with the person who is speaking, and you are always welcome to share opposing views and opinions. Make sure that when you do so, you maintain a respectful tone. This means being thoughtful with your response, avoiding name-calling/bullying, and listening to both sides of the conversation. Additionally, if you feel that you have something meaningful to add to the conversation, *please do*. You all have individual voices, and what you have to say matters. Respect yourself by allowing yourself to speak up when you feel comfortable.
   2. **I will never cold-call on you**. Cold-calling is when a teacher calls on somebody randomly with no warning during discussion. I will not do that. There may be times when I would like to encourage you to participate; if that happens, I will always give you a heads up before I expect a response.
   3. **Participate**. This expectation may make you nervous or confused, especially because I just told you that I won’t force you to speak during class discussions. Participating in discussions is so much more than speaking. Participating includes listening, taking notes, and reflecting on what’s said. If you feel more comfortable typing your thoughts in the chat rather than speaking out loud, that’s perfectly fine. If you would rather write your thoughts down on paper for you to reflect on later, that’s fine too.
4. Plagiarism Policy – Plagiarism takes many forms. In the simplest sense, plagiarism is the act of submitting work that is not your own. This includes copying and pasting answers from Google/other websites, using a classmate’s answers as your own, or using AI (such as Chat GPT) to formulate responses. Plagiarism of ANY TYPE is not tolerated in this class. If I have reason to suspect that your answers are not your own, you will receive a zero on that assignment. Please be assured that I do not hand out zeroes at random – there are reliable ways to check for plagiarism, including finding the original source from which the work was taken and using AI detectors. If you are penalized for plagiarism in any way, I will leave you feedback explaining the point deduction.

**Gradebook Categories**

Tests – 15%

Quizzes – 15%

Assignments – 30%

Projects – 30%

Mid-Term/Final – 10%

**Course Topics**

I am still in the process of deciding what material we will cover during this class. Any of the topics listed below are subject to change, and you should expect this list to expand as the semester progresses.

* Short Stories
  + Pandora’s Box
  + Prometheus
  + Monkey’s Paw
  + The Sun Parlor
* Novels/Plays (You do not need to buy any of these. I’m still in the process of picking which ones we will do.)
  + *Twelve Angry Men*
  + *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*
* Historical Events
  + Roosevelt’s Infamy Speech
  + The Challenger Disaster
  + Nazi Book Burning
* Argumentative Writing
* Author’s Purpose
* Poetry
  + Identifying Rhyme Schemes
  + Interpreting Poems
  + Figurative Language
* Keystone Prep
  + Study Island