

## English 2 Course Description:

English 2 continues the pattern established in English 1 of promoting growth in fundamental skills along with specialized content knowledge, including the techniques and vocabulary of literary criticism and reading significant pieces of literature. English 2 Honors will follow the same general outline, but will see supplemental reading and more in depth study of some course material, as well as higher expectations for student performance and engagement.

## Grading Policy:

I grade on an 80/20 ratio. This is to say that 80% of a student's grade is derived from mastery of skills or content, 20% is derived from my assessment of student progress (think quizzes, homework, and minor assignments). I take 1% (out of the 20) to report student engagement. This is a highly subjective score based on my impressions on the fly. As such I will drop a significant number of these grades making it highly likely that most students will receive their 1%. I include this grade really so that we have a regular measure that we can refer to, and that parents can have a general idea if their children appear to be giving the class an honest effort.

Anticipate at least 2 summative (in the 80% column) grades per quarter, quizzes as needed and regular reporting of student engagement..

The general outline of the course is as follows:

We will begin by reading of Mice and Men and use this to improve our abilities in written literary analysis

We will then read some classics from Sophocles and Plato. Each piece will be read in class and subject to discussion, quizzes, tests and an essay in which we will work on ideas as well as apply techniques of literary criticism.

We will read Moby Dick before winter break, and work on vocabulary, and literary devices with an emphasis on metaphor, symbolism, and conceit.

This semester will include a comprehensive final exam.

In the spring we will turn our attention to writing skills and poetry.

There will be a research project that analyses divergent views on an issue of student choice (subject approval) which will be graded including the following concepts in the rubric :

Persuasion, Validity of Argument Logical Grouping of Ideas, Sentence Structure, Relevant Ideas, Purpose, Citation, Details and Evidence Transitions/Main Ideas, Word Choice and Tone Explicit and Implicit Main Ideas.

Following the research and writing project, we will begin to study poetic devices and scansion in preparation for reading a selection of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. Some major grades will be earned by presenting recitations from Shakespeare as well as the typical quizzes and tests.

Following our study of Shakespeare we will refer back to our textbook for more modern poetry.

This semester will include a comprehensive final exam.