Syllabus and Course Overview for English I and II Modified

Westlake High School 2016-17

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Course Overview:

* We will work on reading and analyzing short stories, poems, plays and novels as a class
* We will analyze good writing, and learn to express ourselves well as writers
* We will improve our vocabulary (both as we read and as we write)

Planned Course Units:

* Unit 1: Journaling and Grammar (reviewing what we know and learning new things)
* Unit 2: “Memoir” (using our journals to expand and produce a final written piece)
* Unit 3: Short Stories (analyzing and enjoying) to include seasonal stories
* Unit 4: Shakespeare’s ***Romeo & Juliet*** (reading and analyzing in class, applying our knowledge of characters, plot, setting, etc.)
* Unit 5: STAAR Practice
* Unit 6: Poetry
* Unit 7: Spring Novel (to be voted on by the class)

The Week at a Glance:

* Warm-up writing in our journals 3-4 days (10-15 minutes), with optional sharing
* Analyzing literature together in class
* Class work on projects in collaborative groups / presentations
* Informal and Formal assessments
* Fridays are ISR days (Independent Silent Reading)!

Class Events:

* Guided trips to the WHS library every 4-9 weeks to check out books
* Working in the library to research and write 1 or 2 multi-paragraph papers
* A test or quiz at various points after a unit, or within our short stories or novels
* Class collaborative projects at the end of the Fall and Spring novel

Grading:

* 2-3 major grades and numerous daily grades each 9 weeks

Make Up Work / Test Re-takes:

* Work can sometimes be forgotten at home. All daily work will be accepted until the end of the 3 week section, I will also give you reminders in class
* You may re-take a test for full credit after you have made corrections and demonstrated that you have studied the material prior to re-test

Supplies Required for Class:

* Pen or pencil
* Highlighter
* Charged iPad
* Journal (this will be kept in the classroom)
* A book for ISR from the library or your home (may be kept in the classroom)

Class Rules:

* Get to class on time
* Have a seat and get out your English work – even if I am not there yet
* Bring your iPad (charged) and pens/pencils to class
* Bring your ISR book to class every Friday
* Work on class assignments during class if you are given the time
* Do not work on assignments for other classes or play on the iPad without permission
* Be a respectful listener, writer and speaker in our class
* Respect the writing and opinions of your classmates and teacher
* Do not leave class without permission

Contacting the Teacher:

I hope you really enjoy this class, and that you will enjoy reading and writing things that are interesting to you and express your voice. I will give you clear directions on assignments and projects, and we will talk about them in class. You are also welcome to ask me questions before or after class, or you can email me with questions. I will read messages on my iPad even outside of school and will answer you