

English 10 Course Syllabus & Classroom Expectations

Mr. Lamont – Room E104

Office Hours: M-F 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 3:15-4:00 p.m.

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Welcome to 10th grade English! I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be your teacher in this very important year. We will have a productive year in which you will be reading, writing about, and discussing texts that will broaden your world view and cause you to reflect upon your own identity. You will shape the world in your own way, and literature provides an essential window into the perspectives of others. You will be challenged in this class and will emerge a more effective writer, reader, and critical thinker. The English 10 curriculum is intended to give students a background in the most prominent archetypes and illusions in Western Civilization. This is cultural literacy of your high school education. We will focus on universal themes in literature such as the hero's journey, rites of passage, loss of innocence, the basic nature of humanity, the nature of justice, dreams/goals, forgiveness, and the search for wisdom in a sometimes confusing world.

Major literary works may include *Gilgamesh*, *Beowulf*, *The Bible as in Literature*, Greek Mythology, the King Arthur Legends, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Bean Trees*, *A Separate Peace*, a Shakespeare play, *Antigone*, *12 Angry Men*, *Persepolis*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Peace Like a River*, *Yellow Raft in Blue Water*, *Grand Openings*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, along with supplemental short stories, poem, and film.

Essential Questions:

What experiences are universal and what are not?
What responsibility do I have to other human beings?
What are the cost and benefits of losing innocence?
What does it mean to be heroic?
What responsibility do I have for addressing injustice?
What is injustice and how do we identify it?
How do people justify the use/misuse of power?

Classroom expectations

Cell Phones: There may be a few occasions when you will require a cell phone in class. However, these situations will be few and far between and will be accompanied by explicit instructions. **Unless otherwise instructed, cell phones are not to be out in class.**

Participation: Your participation in this class is essential. Only through interacting with other people and with our own thoughts and ideas can you truly develop yourself as an individual and academic leader.

- Use respectful, academic language at all times. **Profane or demeaning language will not be accepted as it is counterproductive to our mission.**
- Maintain a positive, energetic, and professional attitude in class

Supplies: You will need a college rule notebook that you use solely for this class. You will use this notebook to take notes on content and our discussions. You will also use this notebook for drafts of your writing and any journaling that takes place in the class. It is up to you to use a section in a three ring binder, the pockets of your notebook, or a separate folder to organize the papers for this class. Please come prepared each day with your notebook, folder or binder, our current text, and a blue or black ink pen.

Homework

Homework will receive full credit if fully completed and turned in *at the beginning of the class period*. If it is turned in at the end of the class period or school day, it is counted as one day late. Sometimes I will collect your homework. Other times, I will check it off and ask you to keep it for later reference.

Late Work

If you fail to complete an assignment, you are expected to check in with me and to turn the assignment in the next day. Assignments that are one day late will be accepted for a maximum of 75% credit. After the first day late, assignments can only receive 50%. If you have extenuating circumstances, please communicate with me and we can reach an alternate agreement.

Absence

If you are absent from class, check the class website and confirm the instructions with me. Your peers will also be useful in this situation, but make sure you double check.

Exams

In order to give everyone the opportunity to be successful, there will be absolutely no talking until every student has finished. If you talk during an exam, even if you have finished, you will receive a zero on that exam.

Plagiarism

Failing to cite your sources in your writing or formation of ideas is intellectual theft. If plagiarism occurs, you will receive no credit on the assignment and will schedule a conference with me. Please refer to the West Linn High School Honor Code.