English II Honors

Mrs. Aja’ P. Davis

Rocky River High School

Fall 2014

**Room**: C201 **Tutoring:** Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm or by appt. **Phone:** 980.344-0409

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**Course Description and Goals**

**Welcome to English II HONORS!** You have chosen to enroll in a challenging, engaging and rewarding English course which will allow you to develop your thoughts about literature, writing, and the world. The English II course will follow the Common Core Curriculum for English Language Arts. This course focuses on world literature in order to broaden the literary landscape of high school students. The units begin with an investigation of culture, working toward a definition and an understanding of the commonalities and differences among human cultures as represented in literature, media, and non-fiction from around the world. Students read widely and deeply, and are asked to write about and research ways cultures communicate and the conflicts that sometimes arise between cultures. Students will examine pieces of world literature in a cultural context to appreciate the diversity and complexity of world issues and to connect global ideas to their own experiences. Students will continue to explore language for expressive, informational/explanatory, critical, argumentative and literary purposes, although emphasis will be placed on informational contexts. In addition to literature study, students will:

* Examine non-literary texts related to cultural studies.
* Research material to use primarily in clarifying their own explanatory responses to situations and literary-based issues
* Learn the standards of a research paper, including conducting initial research, the research paper format, and how to properly cite sources
* Critically interpret and evaluate experiences, literature, language, and ideas through individual and whole group textual analysis, in-class discussion, individual writing assignments, and small group activities.
* Use standard grammatical conventions and select features of language appropriate to purpose, audience, and context of the work.
* Edit and revise their own writing for grammar and stylistic errors according to conventions of standard American English.
* Prepare for the Common Core EOC: At the end of this course, we will take the End of Course examination. This test will combine multiple-choice with open-ended constructed responses to a series of fiction and non-fiction passages. We will be preparing for this test throughout the semester through our course focus on world literature.

**Course Texts: \* This text must be purchased. Other texts are available in the classroom, but it is recommended that you have your own copy of each novel for annotation purposes. If you choose to use the classroom copy, you must have sticky notes of your own to use for annotation.**

* *\*How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster* (needed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
* *The Book Thief by Markus Zusak*
* *Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe*
* *The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini*
* *The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho*
* **Class Textbooks are Online**. Your Holt McDougal textbook username and password will be provided to you during the first week of class. A class set of textbooks will be kept in the classroom

**Twitter as a Discussion Board**

Each student will need a Twitter account. Twitter will be used to engage with your classmates, bring relevancy to content, expand the walls of the classroom, and challenge you to be self-reflective. Follow Mrs. Davis for assignment questions: @EngTeachADavis

**Vocabulary**

Vocabulary will be studied using the Vocabulary from Classical Roots – Book D. Quizzes will be given biweekly.

**\*Independent Reading**

One of the major differences between regular English II and Honors English II is an independent, semester-long reading project. Each of you must read **one book** from the list provided to you during the first week of school. You will have to purchase/borrow this book on your own. I do not have copies for you. You will have to complete an essay (prompts are on a separate document) and a literature circle assignment attached to the Independent Reading project (you will find out more about this toward the end of the semester).

**Required Materials/Resources:**

* Notebook Dividers ( 5 total)
* Three ring binder- 1-2 inch inches
* College-ruled notebook paper
* Pens/pencils
* Highlighters
* Post it notes
* Colored pencils/markers
* Internet access
* Flash drive (highly recommended)
* Twitter account (@EngTeachADavis)

**MEASUREMENT METHODS:**

Students will be assessed in the following ways:

*In reading…*

* Multiple-choice exams and short-answer, constructed responses to thematic textual elements
* Reading response/dialectical journals and in-class activities
* Reading skills will be evaluated at the end of the semester on the Common Core EOC

*In writing…*

* Writing will be evaluated throughout the semester through essays and projects
* Informal in-class writing assignments will also be assessed for effort and understanding
* Writing will be evaluated at the end of the semester on the Common Core EOC

*In participation…*

* Oral literacy- students will be expected to participate fully in the debate of complex issues, group presentations, Socratic Seminars, role playing activities, and general class discussions.
* Collaboration- students will be expected to engage in group discussions, literature circles and writing teams

**Grading**

Students will be assessed in various manners throughout the year, individually, and as an active member of a group. Students should expect to earn credit on a daily basis and should study nightly to retain information covered in class. Late work will be graded according to the late work policy.

Formal Assignments (Tests, Quizzes, Projects, Papers) will consist of 70% of grade.
Informal Assignments (Homework, Classwork) will consist of 30% of grade.

**Homework**

You can expect homework.  It is essential to the completion of this course that many reading and writing assignments be completed at home.

**Late Work Policy**

Formal assignments submitted late will be penalized by one full letter grade for each day after the due date up to three days. Formal assignments include projects and essays.

Late informal assignments require a teacher-student conference and will be penalized.

**Make-up Work**

Per CMS policy, students with excused absences have five (5) days to make up any work that was assigned while they were absent. This policy does not apply to work that was assigned beforehand and was simply due during the absence. Work that falls into this category is due the day the student returns to class. **Work that is turned in after either deadline may be turned in for review, but will not be given full credit (see late work policy above).** If there are any questions, ask rather than assume an answer. It is better to get some credit that none at all. Students who miss class are responsible for obtaining their own make-up work; it is not the responsibility of the teacher to seek out a student to inform them of missing assignments. All questions pertaining to make-up work should be asked at the conclusion of class. No information will be given about missing assignments before class and class time will not be interrupted for students wishing to obtain make-up work. **Lockout absences are unexcused.**

**Unit Common Assessment Retake Policy**

Students are eligible to retake unit common assessments for grades scored below 84%. Attendance at one tutoring session with an English II teacher is required before a retake is allowed. Students must attend the tutoring session and retake the exam within ten school days of the initial returned exam grade. Per CMS policy, the highest possible score allowed on retakes is 84%.

**Mrs. Davis’s Rules and Expectations**

* Students should be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings
* Students should stay in their assigned seats unless given permission to move
* Students should be respectful of their teacher, their peers, and school property
* Students should follow directions the first time they are given
* Students should do all grooming before class. Applying makeup, playing hairdresser, and gazing in a mirror are not acceptable classroom behaviors
* Students should refrain from eating in class
* Students should not be texting or using their cell phone for any purpose during class unless
given permission.
* Students who are tardy will report to the Lockout Room per Rocky River High School policy
* Restroom breaks are not permitted during this class. Restroom visits should be taken during class changes. Doctor’s notes submitted to the school nurse will be honored.
* Students who accrue more than 10 unexcused absences must complete recovery in order to pass this course

Please legibly fill out the following information. This page should be returned to Mrs. Davis by Friday, August 29.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                   Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parent Work/Cell:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Additional phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Questions/Concerns/Things I Should Know:

**Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the classroom procedures and rules for this class.**

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_