**10th Grade English Course Syllabus**

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**Student and Parent Contract**

Ms. Plazola

**Classroom:** A211

**Conference Period:** Mondays 11:50 a.m.—12:40 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 10:40 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Conferences can also be scheduled by appointment.

**School Phone: (213) 765-2088, ext. 211**

**Email:**  [splazola7@gmail.com](mailto:splazola7@gmail.com); [sxp8983@lausd.net](mailto:sxp8983@lausd.net)

**Course Description**

This 10th grade English course is designed to provide students with a balanced language arts course. Students will be given opportunities to accurately interpret literature and make meaningful connections between the text and their own personal experiences, culture, and/or point of view, as well as connections to other texts. The course will also stress building an appropriate grade-level vocabulary, as well as continuing to develop strong writing skills. Students will also have several activities and projects that will require students to develop and strengthen their public-speaking skills.

**Course Objectives**

During the year, regular assessments will be completed by each student to demonstrate his/her developing writing skills and reading comprehension. Students will produce written essays that will address the following modes of writing: argumentation, rhetorical analysis, expository, and narrative. Students will also engage in frequent critical thinking exercises in written and oral formats. Students will regularly participate in informal debates, Socratic seminars, philosophical chairs, and class discussions. The goal of this course is ultimately to prepare students for potential entrance into an A.P. English course in 11th or 12th grade. Additionally, this course will prepare students to meet the reading and writing expectations in other courses.

Students will also take department common assessments in literary analysis and expository writing, as determined by the English department.

Students will also be required to participate and complete the 10th Grade Community Health Project.

In order to prepare for these assessments and meet these expectations, course objectives include:

* An intense study and pursuit of a stronger age-appropriate vocabulary.
* Developing and exercising reading strategies that work- i.e., using journals, annotating text, use of Cornell Notes, and critical thinking strategies for independent use.
* Learning to approach literature from an analytical and rhetorical perspective, such as identifying purpose and argument.
* Becoming familiar with and being able to analyze various literary genres and their corresponding structures.
* Writing in various genre styles, i.e, short stories, poetry, letters, speeches, essays, research papers, etc.
* Developing and practicing public speaking skills, as well as learning to evaluate oral presentations.

**Materials Needed**

* 1-2” Three Ring Binder (hard cover)
* Spiral Notebook (for journals/notes)
* Thesaurus and Dictionary---You WILL USE them, so GET them!!!! **You will not have to bring these to class.**
* Highlighters/Pens/Pencils/Paper-Have at least 1 colored pen for corrections. Bring PLENTY of paper!
* **Post-its/index cards** for annotating class texts and vocabulary cards. These will be used on a regular basis. Be prepared.
* **A USB drive/ online USB account to save your work.** All final projects must be typed, unless otherwise stated. If you don’t have access to a computer at home, computer access is available at the school library and the public library, as well as in my class.
* **Your own teacher-approved reading novel.** You will be required to bring in your own novel when time is given to work on your Independent Reading Project. If you finish class assignments early and don’t have any other assignment to keep you busy, you must read silently.

**Behavior Expectations**

**RESPECT: The student has a right to learn. The teacher has a right to teach.**

**In order to foster a safe, productive learning environment, the following is expected of students.**

1. **Speaking**.

* Do **not** rudely interrupt the teacher during class lecture or another student during discussion. Raise your hand and you will be given a chance *to speak and be heard.*
* Participate in an appropriate, civilized manner in class. **No** foul language or harassment will be tolerated in class. You will use class time to practice proper language expression and group collaboration as expected in the real world.

1. **Cleanliness**. Keep their work area clean and organized. Show **RESPECT** for **my** classroom, which is temporarily *your* environment. **This means no food or open drinks during instructional time. *If you spill something, clean it up. If you drop something, pick it up. If you break something, let me know as soon as possible.***
2. **Electronic Devices**. School policy clearly states that you should not have electronic devices on campus. If it is lost or stolen, the school is not responsible. You should not have had it to begin with.
   * **If you bring it into class,** turn off all electronic devices during class time, i.e., cell phones, iPods, etc. **If I must ask you to put it away more than once, I will confiscate it.**
3. **Computers. Ask permission to use classroom computers.** The computers in class belong to the school. They must be taken care of and monitored at all times. Your class is **not** my only class with assignments that require computer use. They are for *educational* use only!
   * 1. **Ask permission to use computers first!**
     2. **Ask for help if you are having trouble printing.**
4. **Child Abuse Awareness.** Please be aware that all teachers are court-mandated reporters. If you share information that implies you or others around you are in danger, I am required by law to report it to the appropriate authorities.

**Policies and Procedures**

1. **Written Work:**
   * All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Have them out and ready to be checked!!! Most homework is used in class the following day during activities. DO NOT be the sole unprepared person in your group.
   * **Submit professional work.** This means your work is clean, has a proper heading (name, class, period, and date), and the writing is legible. If I can’t read it, I won’t accept it.
   * Do not use slang in your work, unless I o.k. it for the assignment.
2. **INCOMPLETE** projects will not be accepted. **No Exceptions!!!**
3. **Late Work:**  **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED!!!** See me if circumstances force you to turn something in late.
4. **Extra Credit:** Opportunity for extra credit points will be offered throughout the semester, and will usually require you to go beyond the required expectations of an assignment. **No major extra credit projects are offered to make up for a failing grade**. Keep up with your current assignments.

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| --- | --- |
| **Percentage of points** | **Grade** |
| 100-90% | **A** |
| 89-80% | **B** |
| 79-70% | **C** |
| 69-60% | **D** |
| 59-0% | **F** |

1. **Tardies:** See school policy. Be in your seat or you are late. I will assign detention or contact your parent(s) if punctuality becomes a problem.

**Grading Policy**: Assignments/projects/exams are graded on a point basis. .

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| **Class breakdown for overall semester grade** | |
| **Class participation (class assignments, reading assignments, journals, group presentations, etc.)** | **20%** |
| **Homework** | **10%** |
| **Major Projects (Essays, creative projects)** | **30%** |
| **Assessments (Quizzes, Periodic Assessments, formal presentations)** | **25%** |
| **Final Exam** | **15%** |

**Ms. Plazola**

**English**

**CLASS PERIOD\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Course Syllabus**

**Record of Acknowledgement**

Dear Students and Parents:

Please sign below and return this portion of the course syllabus to the teacher acknowledging that you have reviewed the syllabus and are aware of the English Department’s policies, as well as my own classroom guidelines.

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*Estimados Estudiantes y Padres:*

*Por favor firme y regresa esta porción a la maestra como reconocimiento que Ud. entiende y esta de acuerdo con las reglas y la información sobre las pólizas del departamento de Ingles, incluyendo las reglas de estas.*

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**I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the class guidelines.**

*Yo*, Student name/ Nombre del estudiante *he leído y entiendo las pólizas de esta clase.*

Should I need to be contacted, I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Si se necesita comunicarse conmigo, llame a: Home, work or cellphone number*

*Teléfono del hogar, trabajo, o celular*

\_\_\_\_\_I am aware and **ACCEPT** the possibility of my son/daughter viewing unrated or

“R” rated material (violence or language) for educational purposes.

*Estoy encontrado/a y* ***ACEPTO*** *la posibilidad de que mi hijo/a vea excerptos de películas graficas en violencia o en lenguaje que se usen con propósito educacional.*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* I am aware and **DO NOT ACCEPT** the possibility of my son/daughter viewing

unrated or “R” rated material for educational purposes.

*Estoy enterado/a y* ***NO ACEPTO*** *la posibilidad de que mi hijo/a vea excerptos de películas graficas en*

*violencia o en lenguaje que se usen con propósito educacional.*

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Student Signature / Firma del estudiante Date/ Fecha

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Parent Signature/ Firma del Padre/Guardian Date/ Fecha