**Humanities II—Honors English**

**Welcome to your sophomore year!** This year we will continue your preparation for college level work by developing your reading and writing skills, as well as your skills in academic discussion.

**How to contact me:**

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619.593.5488

We are happy to help and encourage you in your education. Please check our websites for assignments, handout, calendars, etc. Our preferred method of communication is via e-mail. Emails sent after school hours will likely be answered the next day. Phone calls may require 48 hours or more to receive a response.

**Expectations:**

1. Come to class (on time) as often as possible.
2. Be prepared when the bell rings!
3. Be honest and respectful.
4. Do your best work always!

**Independent Reading**

One of the primary program differences between the Honors program and the College Prep program is the Independent Reading Program. According to the article, “Independent Reading and School Achievement,” published by the American Library Association:

The amount of free reading done outside of school has consistently been found to relate to growth in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency, and general information (Anderson, Wilson, and Fielding 1988; Greaney 1980; Guthrie and Greaney 1991; Taylor, Frye, and Maruyama 1990). Students who read independently become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas, and have greater content knowledge than those who do not (Krashen 1993; Cunningham and Stanovich 1991; Stanovich and Cunningham 1993).

To this end, Honors students will be required to read an additional pieces of fiction or non-fiction chosen from a list totaling a minimum of 500 pages every semester. Classes will receive information and time in the VHS library to assist in book selection and will be assessed on reading approximately every six weeks. Students will be given time weekly to delve into their independent reading choices; weekly reading grades based on attendance, participation and being prepared. **Independent Reading is worth 100 points per each grading cycle (every six weeks.)**

**Course Reading List—Semester I**

Our first semester of class reading and discussion focuses on the following works:

* *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
* *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
* *Frankenstein*
* *Twelfth Night* & Shakespearian Sonnets
* Assorted poetry, prose and academic writings

**Course Reading List—Semester 2**

Our second semester of class reading and discussion focuses on the following works:

* *Things Fall Apart*
* *All Quiet on the Western Front*
* *To Kill a Mockingbird*
* *Night*
* *1984*
* Various poetry, prose and editorial writings

Though school copies are available, it is strongly suggested that students purchase their own copies of the above works, as they can annotate, review and reread personal copies. Participation points depend on having a physical copy of the book assigned in class each day.

**Assignments**

All major assignments (processed/drafted essays, projects, and analyses) must be typed, double-spaced, in normal font, and in maximum 12 point font unless the directions state otherwise. Students will be required to upload all essays/analyses to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com/). Students will be given time and instruction in class to create an account. Scores will not be given on work not submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Academic Integrity & Honesty**

All work turned in for credit is expected to be the students’ original work. Any unauthorized collaboration, copying, sharing of answers or ideas, will warrant an automatic zero on the assignment and a referral for academic dishonesty. Per Humanities II policy, two academic dishonesty referrals threaten a drop from the course. The teacher may deny any request for letters of recommendation or other references.

**Tardy Policy**

Tardy students must excuse their tardy with attendance. Unexcused tardies will result in a loss of participation points. One warning tardy will be not be penalized, whereas future unexcused tardies will earn a detention and each tardy in a six-week period will result in a 10% penalty of participation points with a maximum loss of 50% of possible participation points. **It is the student’s responsibility to clear tardies before arriving to class or clearing it up by the next school day.**

**Late Work Policy**

All assignments are due at the beginning of the period; any work submitted later in the period or later in the day will result in earning late credit. Any Unexcused Tardy will cause work turned in to earn late credit. Students will receive four (4) Emergency Passes which will serve as Hall Passes or a Tech Pass allowing for one extra day on an assignment. The teacher can exempt a particular assignment from Tech Passes and students will be notified of this on the assignment instructions.

All work turned in after the due date will receive 70% credit within the first 24 hours of its due date, 50% after 48 hours.. Two days late is the maximum any assignment may be turned in unless the student receives **prior notification** from the teacher of other arrangements.

Students have **one week to make-up tests and Pre-AP writes**. An appointment must be made with the teacher to make up the test/Pre-AP write. The make-up times are during lunch on Wednesdays, first period on Mondays, or in class on Fridays (with a maximum score of 80%). Any in-class activity in regards to testing (test corrections, reflections, et cetera) will be subject to the same conditions. Alternative arrangements to be made with the teacher.

**Course Curricula**

All readings, activities, and assignments are designed purposefully to aid the student in preparation for AP English Language, AP English Literature, and university level writing. This leaves little time for basic skill development. Students who need extra help in reading skills, spelling, grammar, and organization should seek assistance from afterschool tutorial, self-study, or through enrollment in programs like AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination).

Readings are chosen carefully to meet the need for rigorous study, mature themes, and intellectual content. Please review the course readings for content to ensure in a timely manner if you should have objections to any text. The teacher will work with the student to find a reasonable substitute of equal or greater text difficulty level. All classwork must be matched by an alternative of similar rigor.

**Methodology**

Humanities II Honors Literature classes aim to meet expected student outcomes of Advanced Placement courses, university writing and literature courses, and California standards for English language and literature. Students are expected to read aloud at times, speak practiced and extemporaneous pieces, and to share their work with the class. We are a collaborative learning environment where all students and ideas are welcome.

**Safe Place**

All Valhalla classrooms should be a safe place for all students. No physical or verbal abuse will be tolerated regardless of the relationship between students. Students will conduct themselves respectfully of all people and property and frame their criticism in a constructive and scholarly manner. Students will be warned for minor offenses and referred to administration for a second offense. Major offenses are immediately reported.

**Grading Categories**

Classwork & Homework 10% All routine practice work assigned.

Participation Points 10% Discussion points, behavior, and punctuality.

Projects & Compositions 40% Essays, speeches/presentations, creative responses.

Tests & Quizzes 20% Reading, vocabulary, mid-level assessments.

Exams 20% Summative assessments, Unit Exams, Finals

We look forward to a fun and inspiring year in Humanities II Honors English. Please complete the signature page following this one!

Detach this page and keep the syllabus in your binder for reference.

Please have signed and returned by Wednesday September 4th, 2013. Please print legibly.

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Student Name Student Signature

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Contact Parent Name Parent Signature

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Parent E-Mail Parent Phone No.