



Mater Lakes Academy

English II

2019-2020 School Year

Ms. Arlet Aguiar

Contact:

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Course Description:

The theme of English II is culture. Therefore, the course's main goal is to expose students to world cultures and literatures, so that they may become culturally aware. Cultural sensitivity is a quality that is necessary in speech, language, and communication and that often creates better thinkers and speakers. Because students will be exposed to various cultures, some of which they may not agree with, I ask that students hold themselves to the highest standard by regarding all of the materials they view in my class with the utmost respect and tolerance.

Note to parents:

As you may already know, 10th grade is a crucial year for high school students. This year, students will be taking the PSAT along with other standardized tests that will determine their timely graduation from high school. Meanwhile, students will still be asked to keep up with the demands of 6 other classes and extracurricular activities. It is my hope that teachers, parents, and students can all work together in order to lighten the load and maximize results next year.

In my language arts course, we will focus our efforts on building vocabulary, reinforcing writing skills, and most importantly, developing the necessary critical thinking apparatus to help students in every aspect of their lives, not just the coming tests.

I ask that parents maintain an open line of communication with me throughout the year via my [materlakes.org](mailto:aaguiar@materlakes.org) email and that they sign up for notifications on the materlakes.org webpage.

Accountability:

Students will be held accountable for all assignments. It is imperative that parents, guardians, and students understand that all late work is inexcusable unless proper clearance is given from the office within 48 hours of the due date of the assignment.

If a student is tardy to my class and misses a quiz, unless the tardy is excused, the student will not have a chance to make up the quiz (this is especially important for students in first period).

I am only available in the mornings before school from 6:45 - 7:20 for make-up work and to sign admits. Please remember this or arrange other accommodations with me via email.



Homework:

Students will be asked to set aside 1-2 hours for homework a week whether it be for NoRedInk (an online program that has students practice grammar), Springboard Zinc (an online program that has students practice reading and vocabulary), or completing an in-class assignment at home.

Students will have one in-class project per grading quarter that will count as several grades.

I try to limit the amount of homework students take home whenever I can but sometimes students will take home unfinished classwork.

Grading Scale:

3.5 - 4.0 = A

2.5 - 3.4 = B

1.5 - 2.4 = C

1.0 - 1.4 = D

0.0 - 0.9 = F

Class Rules:

1. I will treat you with respect, so you know how to treat me and my classroom.
2. Feel free to do anything that doesn't cause a problem for anyone else.
3. If you cause a problem, I will ask you to solve it.
4. If you can't solve the problem, or choose not to, I will do something.
5. What I will do will depend on the specific person and the specific situation.

Failure to abide by class rules will result in the following actions:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Detention
4. Phone call to parent/guardian and/or detention**.
5. Teacher/parent conference.
6. Referral to administration.

****Detentions are to be served in my room for 20 minutes and within 24 hours during the student's lunch time****

Conduct grades will drop if students repeatedly break class rules or do not attend detentions.

Electronic Devices:

Phones are not allowed out in my classroom under any circumstances unless students are expressly asked to use them. Any unauthorized use of cell phones will result in confiscation. Put simply, I don't want to see cell phones and expect that the students will keep them in their bookbag and turned off during class. If the device is in a pocket and it falls out, it will be confiscated. If the device rings in class, it will be confiscated. **No exceptions.**



Medical Emergencies:

I am no longer excusing medical emergencies unless there is a written note on file for the student. For example, if the student has a heart or an anxiety condition that prevents them from presenting in front of the class, I will expect to receive a note from parents with medical documentation from the moment the problem arises and not on the day of presentations. **No exceptions.**

Cheating & Plagiarism:

Students are expected to submit original work. Plagiarism of any kind and copying answers off of classmates during tests or other assessments will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for those students involved as well as a trip to the office. There will be NO tolerance for unethical behavior.

Required Materials:

- 1 college-ruled composition notebook
- Pens for completing assignments
- Highlighters
- Line paper

Heading:

This year, since I will not be doing most of my filing, it is imperative that you write a heading on your paper. Failure to write your heading will result **in a 10% grade deduction**. On the right hand side of the page, write the following:

Full Name
Date
Period

Required Reading:

For this class, we will be working with Springboard (a textbook developed by The College Board curriculum). Students are required to have the following books for the school year. Their grade depends on it.

- First Quarter: *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater
- Second Quarter: *First They Killed My Father* by Loung Ung
- Third Quarter: *Antigone* by Sophocles
- Fourth Quarter: TBA



Please fill out and sign the following so that I know you and your parent have read and understood my classroom policies. Please return this page of the syllabus next time we see each other for a grade.

Student Name:

Parent Name:

Parent Phone Number:

Parent Email Address:

Preferred time/method of contact:

Share anything about your child that you feel I should know:

Parent Signature/Date

Student Signature/Date



Por favor llene y firme lo siguiente para que sepa que usted y sus padres han leído y entendido las políticas de mi clase. Por favor regrese esta página del programa de estudios la próxima vez que nos veamos para una calificación.

Nombre de estudiante:

Nombre de padre/padres:

Numero celular de padre/padres:

Correo electrónico de padre/padres:

Tiempo preferido y método de contacto:

Comparte cualquier cosa que creas que yo debo saber sobre su hijo/hija:

Firma de padre/Fecha

Firma de estudiante/Fecha