

Valley High School
English I
Instructor: Ms. Megan Mueller
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

Instruction in this course will explore various thematic elements found in the following:

1. Non-fiction
2. Short stories
3. Novels
4. Media
5. Poetry
6. Non-fiction and creative writing

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Laptop
Laptop charger
Writing utensils (pens/pencils)
Lined paper
Assigned reading materials (book, handout, packet)
Google account (for Google Documents, Google Calendar, etc.)

TEXTS

"Allegory of the Cave" by Plato
The Odyssey by Homer
Anthem by Ayn Rand
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
Textbook: *The Language of Literature*, McDougal Littell

COURSE INSTRUCTION

The content of this course will be taught using lecture, group work, guided reading, independent reading, student inquiry, and evaluations of student understanding.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

First and foremost, students will adhere to all of VHS policies and Weld County School District RE-1's "Code of Conduct" at all times to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1. R-E-S-P-E-C-T** for your teachers, administrators, parents, other students and yourself. All those who pass through the classroom doors deserve to feel safe and respected. This is a safe zone where people can share their opinions and make mistakes without judgement.
- 2. OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE-** Swearing and other inappropriate language, including offensive slang, will not be tolerated. *Deliberate use of such language will receive more serious consequences, such as a referral to the office and parent contact.*
- 3. ENVIRONMENT-** This class is expected to have a positive atmosphere. We are going to explore lots of cool texts and expand your knowledge of the human experience through literature. Because of this, eye-rolling and negativity will not be allowed. If you choose to be disruptive or otherwise unresponsive to the lesson, you will be asked to leave my classroom. It is your responsibility to catch up on material you missed upon your return.
- 4. ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION-** You can't learn if you do not come to class. You must be an advocate for yourself and see me (or the Weebly) if you are going to be absent to get any work you will miss before you leave. If the absence is unexpected, you need to see me immediately after you return to make up work you have missed. If a participation is entered for the day you are absent, you are still responsible for making it up. You can't learn if you don't participate. Yes, your body may be present in a desk, but is your brain ready to learn? Is your attitude contributing to the learning environment? There are many ways to participate: writing, reading, listening, and speaking. These are all ways to be successful.
- 5. FOOD/DRINKS-** Only water will be allowed. If food or non-water liquid is found, it will be confiscated immediately and thrown away, even if you are mid-chew.
- 6. ASSIGNMENTS- ALWAYS** include **your name, my name, class period, and date** on the upper left-hand corner of your work, typed or handwritten.
- 7. HOMEWORK-** Homework will always be due at the beginning of class on the day it is due. We follow the late work policy outlined by Valley High School in this classroom.
- 8. CHEATING-** This is a serious offense will absolutely not be tolerated. Each student is required to do his or own work. Plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a disciplinary referral and action. A first incident

of plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a zero. Additional incidents may result in expulsion from school. Please consult the Student Handbook for the full text of the consequences of academic dishonesty.

- 9. ELECTRONIC DEVICES-** Laptops may only be used when directed by the instructor. No phones, iPods, or any other i-devices.

Note: If you lose your laptop for ANY reason, you are responsible to check the Weebly and retrieve any handouts, activities, or reading materials before class; I will not provide class time for this. Laptop misuse will not be tolerated and will result in you having to complete the assignment by hand until further notice. The instructor reserves the right to confiscate laptops used inappropriately and keep them for the remainder of the period, school day, or in the office.

11. VIKING VIRTUES

Students will...

- Be on time for class
- Wear your ID's throughout the day
- Use respectful language to each other
- Treat each other with dignity
- Turn in work on time with quality
- Use technology for appropriate purposes
- Accept responsibility for actions both positive and negative

I reserve the right to modify any part of these classroom expectations at any time. You are also a member of this class, so if there is anything that needs to be added or addressed, please come talk to me. I would love to hear your input.

GRADES

Grades are weighted and earned by the student based upon the following percentages:

100-90.0% = A	Quizzes/Checkpoints = 30%
89.4-80.0% = B	Homework/In-Class = 25%
79.4-70.0% = C	Tests/Essays/Projects = 30%
69.4-65.0% = D	Final Exam = 15%
<64.9% = F	

LATE/MISSED WORK- Late work is defined as work that is not turned in at the beginning of the class they day it is due.

- Assignments submitted no more than 2 days after the due date may receive up to 65% of full credit. Assignments more than 2 days late will receive no credit. No forgiveness passes.
- Any missed tests or quizzes will need to be scheduled with me. If the absence is planned, the test should be taken ahead of time. In the

event that the absence is unexpected, students have ONE day to plan a make-up time that is within ONE WEEK of the original test day.

You must always look at the Weebly to view the work to be completed and the agenda for what we did that day.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

No one said that this course was going to be easy, but keep in mind that I am and will always be on your side. With everything that we do in our classroom, there is a purpose to benefit you. However, it is up to you to utilize the resources available to you if help is needed. I am available as a resource, but don't forget your classmates. They are a wonderful resource and by helping you, they are also helping themselves. The best way to learn something is by *teaching* it.

In the words of the great Albus Dumbledore, "Help will always be given...to those who ask for it."

***Phone Prison

***Memory Assistance Device-iCal

