**Ponderosa High School**

**Advanced English 1 Syllabus 2018-2019**

**Mr. Beatty --- Room H12**

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**Course Description & Objectives:**

The Advanced English 1 curriculum develops students’ reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as specified within the Common Core State Standards for grade 9 (<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)>. Over the course of this school year, students will work in a variety of ways toward mastery of these standards. Students will read a variety of rich and complex texts, write criticallyand analytically in a variety of modes, respectfully engage in collaborative academic discussions, develop and refine language skills, engage creatively with course texts and concepts, and so much more. This class is intended to promote, develop, and support students’ *critical thinking* and *communication* skills, fostering their growth into discerning, autonomous, and creative citizens of our society. This course will be rigorous, fast-paced and challenging, as well as exciting and invigorating; students will read and write *a lot*, and will in turn become successful scholars.

**Expectations of an Advanced Student:**

An advanced student is someone who:

* Is academically curious and self-motivated
* Desires an accelerated pace and a deeper exploration of the course content
* Manages difficult course material and engages in higher-level critical thinking
* Is accountable for a variety of advanced readings, analysis of complex ideas, and different types of assessments
* Has excellent time management, organizational, and study skills
* Is prepared to participate in sophisticated reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities; work independently; and handle a rigorous workload

**Course Overview:**

*\*The following course overview represents a general look at the major components of our academic year and is subject to changes\**

*Semester One:*

* *Of Mice and Men –* John Steinbeck
* Greek Mythology & *The Odyssey*
* *Great Expectations –* Charles Dickens
* Short stories, nonfiction, and poetry
* *Collections* textbook
* Explanatory/informative, argumentative, narrative, & timed writing
* Research projects/presentations
* Literature groups
* SSR/Independent reading and projects
* Grammar & vocabulary (Greek roots)

*Semester Two:*

* *Great Expectations –* Charles Dickens (finish)
* *Animal Farm* – George Orwell
* *Romeo & Juliet* – William Shakespeare
* Short stories, nonfiction, and poetry
* *Collections* textbook
* Argumentative, narrative, and timed writing
* Literature groups
* Dramatic performance
* SSR/Independent reading and projects
* Grammar & vocabulary

**Materials:**

The following materials are recommended and should be brought to class each day:

* 3 Ring Binder (should be organized; may be responsibly shared with another class)
* Composition book **or** plenty of binder paper for daily writing tasks, notes, etc.
* Pencils (with extra lead and erasers), pens, and highlighters

In addition to these materials, students should bring the following every day:

* Current course text(s)
* SSR book

If any student does not have access to these materials, they will be provided free of charge. Please do not hesitate to come see me.

**Attendance:**

Daily punctual attendance is of the utmost importance. In order to stay on track, students should come to class on time every day and be seated by the time the bell rings. In the case of *excused absences*, students have two days from the time of their return to make up their work without penalty, and will be awarded Citizenship Points for the days missed. Students with *unexcused absences* should refer to the late/make-up work policy below, and will receive zero Citizenship Points for the days missed. \****If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due and was previously aware of the due date, the assignment is still due either on that day (if online) or on the day the student returns to school.\****

When students are absent, they have multiple options for checking what they missed in class:

* Check the appropriate folder in the absent crate, located on the back counter
* Check the class website (listed at the top of the syllabus)
* Contact me via Remind or email
* Ask a classmate
* Check the whiteboard or talk to me upon their return

**Tardy Policy:**

If a student is not in her/his desk when the bell rings, he/she will be marked tardy. Tardy penalties are as follows:

* 1st & 2nd tardy: Teacher conference
* 3rd tardy: Detention
* 4th tardy (and beyond): Office referral

**Late & Make-Up Work:**

Late work will be accepted for a 10% grade reduction penalty for each day the assignment is late, unless prior arrangements have been made with me (as in cases of *planned* or *excused* absences). All late/make-up work should be placed in the late bin, **not** the regular inbox. \****No late work from a previous grading quarter will be accepted after the first day of the next grading quarter*.\***

**Citizenship Points:**

I strive each day to create a safe, positive, and productive class environment, and I expect students to do the same. *Citizenship Points are intended to hold students accountable for their academic and social behaviors in the classroom*. Each day, students will have the opportunity to receive 3 Citizenship Points (12 per week); students will begin each class period with all 3 points, and may then maintain, lose, and/or regain points based upon their performance, participation, and behavior in class. Students may maintain/gain these points by meeting classroom expectations (see final page of this syllabus), behaving respectfully, following instructions, keeping a positive attitude, actively and responsibly participating in class activities, and by generally behaving like a mature and responsible class citizen; *failure to do these things will result in the loss of Citizenship Points*. If a student routinely loses **all 3 points** during a class period, one of the following disciplinary actions will be enforced, depending on the severity of the student’s behavior: parent/guardian contact, private conference, detention, or referral.

**Independent Reading:**

Over the course of the year, students will read books of their own selection during designated SSR times in class. This component of class is intended to promote students’ development as self-motivated readers, scholars, and critical thinkers; students are also *highly encouraged* to select books suited to their own taste, and to continuously develop a love of reading. Students should bring their independent reading book every day. Students will be held accountable for independent reading at the end of each quarter. Assessments for independent reading may consist of any of the following: presentation, project, essay, book review.

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be determined by the number of points students earn. All assignments will be categorized and weighted as follows:

* **Citizenship Points – 20% of final grade**
* **Formative Assessment** (basically the \**smaller\** assignments we do daily to build toward mastery of major skills, i.e. bellwork, most in-class assignments & writing, quizzes, informal discussions, etc.) **– 30% of final grade**
* **Summative Assessment** (basically the \**big\**assignments we do periodically to demonstrate mastery of major skills, i.e. formal essays, formal discussions, projects, presentations, tests, etc.) **– 50% of final grade**

I follow a standard grading scale, outlined as follows:

A+ 97-100% A 93-96% A- 90-92% B+ 87-89% B 83-86%

B- 80-82% C+ 77=79% C 73-76% C- 70-72% D+ 67-69%

D 63-66% D 60-62% F 59% and below

**Electronic Devices:**

I am a firm believer in the educational value of technology; however, I also understand how distracting personal electronic devices can be in the classroom. Electronic devices and cell phones are **not permitted** to be used during class time, unless students are instructed otherwise (there may be occasional lessons in which students are allowed to use their personal devices to participate). Unauthorized usage of electronic devices in the classroom will result in confiscation of the device for the class period; repeated issues with electronic devices will warrant further disciplinary action.

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else’s language or ideas in your work and passing it off as your own. If a student commits plagiarism, their work will be given an F grade (0 points), parents/guardians will be contacted, and they may be given a referral. ***Do not copy anyone’s work, do not give your work to anyone else, and always cite your sources.*** Don’t plagiarize; it’s not worth it.

**Parent/Student Communication:**

Parents and students should never hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. The best form of communication for me is email, as I check my email many times per day and am most likely to respond in the most timely manner. Parents and students may also stay informed by regularly checking my class website, Google classroom, Aeries, and by signing up for Remind (a class communication app that allows students/parents to receive reminders and updates, as well as to easily communicate with me). Students will be given a chance in class to sign up for Remind, and class codes will be posted on my website; parents are welcome to sign up to receive these messages.

**Classroom Expectations:**

I expect students to contribute to a safe, positive, and productive learning environment. *A successful citizen of this class is*:

* **Respectful**
  + Treat your classmates, your teacher, your classroom, and yourself with respect and kindness; raise your hand before speaking; do not talk over others; stay seated unless you have permission to be up; keep electronics and earbuds away at all times; use appropriate and respectful language; etc.
  + **Offensive, hateful, or discriminatory language will not be tolerated.**
* **Responsible**
  + Arrive to class each day on time and prepared; be in your seat when the bell rings; bring all materials; follow all directions the first time they are given; stay on task and keep up with class work; stay organized; etc.
* **Hard-Working**
  + Give your best effort; turn in assignments on time; be self-directed and motivated; be an independent problem-solver (don’t get stuck on an escalator!); work cooperatively with classmates; etc.
* **Curious**
  + Keep an open mind; seek out and embrace learning opportunities; find something interesting in everything you learn; always be willing to let yourself experience the joy of learning; etc.
* **Willing to Take Risks**
  + Share your ideas and opinions; challenge yourself every day; greatly enhance your learning by trying new things; etc.

**Welcome to Ponderosa, class of 2022! I look forward to an exciting year of learning together.**

***\*Parents and students, please detach, sign, and return the following page indicating that you have read and understood the information contained within this syllabus\****

**THIS PAGE DUE WITH SIGNATURES BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH – 10 POINTS**

***\*Parents and students, please detach, sign, and return the following page indicating that you have read and understood the information contained within this syllabus\****

***Parents and students, please sign below to indicate that you have read and understood the information contained within this syllabus:***

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact Method: \_\_\_ Email \_\_\_ Phone

Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Dear parents/guardians,  It is my great pleasure to welcome you and your student(s) to Ponderosa High School! I look forward to a rigorous and rewarding school year. I firmly believe in the powerful potential of all students, and that every individual has something unique and important to contribute to a rich learning environment; therefore, it is my foremost goal as a teacher to provide instruction and learning opportunities that offer all students the chance to thrive and succeed in school. Parent/family involvement is extremely important to me, so please never hesitate to contact me for any reason ([jbeatty@eduhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jbeatty@eduhsd.k12.ca.us) is my preferred contact method); I check my email multiple times each day, and will almost always respond to messages within 24 hours.  I respect your time and understand that you all maintain busy schedules, so I have provided some ***optional*** questions in the space below. Any input that you are able to provide is greatly appreciated, and will assist me in creating an optimal learning environment for all students. I look forward to working with you and your student(s) this year.  Sincerely,  Mr. Beatty   1. Do you have any concerns regarding English class or your student’s transition to high school?      1. How would you describe your student’s learning style?      1. Is there anything else you would like me to know about your student? 2. Do you have any questions for me?     ***Thank you! Go Bruins!*** |