

Serra High School
English 1/2
2016-2017 Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Marissa Churchwell
Phone: (858) 496-8342

Room: 206
Email: mjarzyna@sandi.net

Goals, Themes, and Overview:

The primary focus of this course is to develop skills from the Common Core State Standards: English Language Arts in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while analyzing an assortment of texts. This course develops and fosters reading strategies and writing skills. In addition, this course is designed to prepare students for academic achievement across all subject areas and improve English proficiency.

Course Outline: This class will concentrate on a variety of reading and writing strategies so students will improve their reading and writing skills. Some activities will include: independent reading, book reports, oral presentations, processed papers, vocabulary building, shared and guided reading and writing, writing in a journal, study skills with a focus on the Common Core Standards.

Textbook: For this course you will need to check out *Literature* (Orange Edition) by McDougal Littell. We will be reading from this textbook throughout the year. Please realize that this book is your responsibility. As well using the textbook we will be continuously checking out class novels from the library.

Novels: In addition to the core literature, you will be reading independently throughout the year novels of your own choice. These novels will be read both inside and outside of the classroom and will be used for book reports. The novels are to reflect the students reading level and should be school appropriate. These novels can be checked out of the classroom, school or public library. Students are responsible for bringing the novels to class **every Friday**.

Grading Policy: Students are expected to keep up with all written and other assignments. Grades will be calculated through the use of a point system; points are accumulated throughout the semester. The final semester grade reflects all work done during the semester. Students should make every effort to complete each assignment; to do nothing earns a 0, and will make it more difficult to pass the course. Total points for each semester will be added and computed so that points fall into grade ranges as follows:

- A** 90% and above
- B** 80-89%
- C** 70-79%
- D** 60-69%
- F** Below 60%

Serra High School
English 1/2
2016-2017 Syllabus

Major Papers and Projects:

In addition to daily warm-ups, grammar, writing and notes you will also be required to complete processed papers, independent book reports, Socratic seminars, speeches and group work.

Class Expectations:

Students are expected to read and analyze a wide variety of genres and authors. Students will demonstrate their achievement at this by completing writing activities and projects about texts read. Students will also participate in individual and group book talks/reports with the class. Students will be writing on a daily basis. We will focus on the writing process, pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing with the following genres of writing: responses to literature, poetry/figurative language, autobiographical/biographical writing, persuasive writing, and different forms of expository writing. Our writing will reflect the Common Core State Standards.

Homework Policy/Absent and Late Work:

All homework assignments will be due the next day unless otherwise specified in class. **They must be turned in at the beginning of class, in pen or typed.** Classwork and homework will be accepted late at 50% of the grade earned within a reasonable amount of time. Major projects and essays will be accepted late, but lowered one letter grade for every day late.

If you have an excused absence such as illness, family emergency or a religious holiday, you have as many days as you were absent to make up your work. If you miss 3 days, you have the next 3 days starting from the day you return to make up your work. Every student is responsible for getting their missed work and assignments from the teacher and or a study buddy in the class. Make up work includes classwork as well as homework.

Classroom Environment: We seek to establish an environment in which all students focus on success and learn to respect themselves and all members of our classroom and campus community. Every student has the right to learn. Electronics, including cell phones, iPods, portable games, etc. are not allowed in the classroom unless specified by me. If seen or heard, when not allowed, they will be confiscated and returned only to a parent.

Classroom Condition: I like a neat and clean room. Absolutely no food or drinks—other than water and Gatorade—are permitted. Please do not chew gum in this room. Clean up after yourself. Pick up paper and other trash and dispose of it.

Attendance: Attendance is essential to learning. All students are expected to attend class each class period. A student may not successfully complete the class if he/she misses more than ten (10) classes in a six week grading period.

Serra High School
English 1/2
2016-2017 Syllabus

Tardy Policy (by each marking period) – according to Serra handbook page 4:

- 1st tardy in a class Warning and counsel student
- 2nd tardy in a class Warning and parent contact
- 3rd tardy in a class Placed on a “loss of privileges “ list. *Students can be removed from the “loss of privileges “ list by attending a Saturday School.*
- On the 10th cumulative tardy (in all classes) during a grading period, a student will be placed on a “loss of privileges” list.

The citizenship grade on the 4th tardy in a class during a grading period would be no higher than an “N. “ Any additional tardies in the grading period would result in a “U. “ Excessive tardiness may result in other consequences and disciplinary actions.

Academic Honesty Policy –according to Serra Handbook page 15:

Academic honesty and responsibility are expected of all Serra students. Cheating at any level is irresponsible and unacceptable.

Offenses of academic honest are defined as, but not limited to:

- Copying some else’s homework
- Plagiarism
- Copying from another printed or electronic resource without giving credit to the author
- Giving and/or receiving answers
- Sharing answers (electronically [Facebook, Twitter, etc...] or physically)
- Using “cheat sheets” or other such devices.
- Utilizing on-line websites to obtain answers, not honest research
- Photography of quizzes, tests or assignments

First Violation:

- Teacher will write a referral to the vice-principal
- Teacher will issue own consequences including but not limited to....
 - U in citizenship
 - Zero on the test/assignment
- Teacher phones parent
- Counselor and vice principal meet with student for counseling session regarding academic honesty.

Second Violation:

- Same as above, including the vice principal issues consequences which could include suspension, Saturday school, etc...

Third Violation:

- Same as above including principal meeting with students and parent. Student will be placed on the Loss of Privilege List (LOP list). Student must utilize the student appeal process to be removed from the LOP list.

Serra High School
English 1/2
2016-2017 Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Marissa Churchwell
Phone: (858) 496-8342

Room: 221
Email: mjarzyna@sandi.net

Parent/Guardian Signature Sheet

It is important that you read the syllabus with your student. That way, both of you know what to expect from your student's 9th-grade Advanced English class. Your student has been over the syllabus and has notes to show you.

Please provide the following information and sign on the line provided. This information will help to ensure that communication is quick and efficient. Please print your responses neatly. Thank you for your help.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Student (parent, aunt, uncle, grandparent): _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number (Home): _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number (Work): _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail: _____

Best Time for Phone Calls (Day of Week and Time of Day) _____

Student Signature: My signature indicates that I have read and understood the syllabus and I know what to expect from my 9th-grade English class. I also know what is expected of me during this school year.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: My signature indicates that I have read and understood the syllabus and I know what to expect from my student's 9th-grade English class. I also know what is expected of my student during this school year.

Name: _____ Date: _____