**ENGLISH 2 Class Syllabus**

**Rio Americano High School**

**Miss Sanders**

**2016-2017 School Year**

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**Room: J-3**

**Conference Time by Appointment:**

**Class Website:**

**Course Description**

English 2 students will use literature to explore different culture, make connections to their own culture, and consider their place in a diverse global community. Students will enhance their critical thinking, research, writing, speaking, and listening skills, and will increase their mastery of grammar and vocabulary.

We will study texts from a great number of ancient and contemporary world cultures, including those of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and North and South America. Students will read a variety of literature, including poetry, short stories, essays, nonfiction, and examples of culturally sacred/mythic texts.

This course places great emphasis on writing, including informative/explanatory, narrative, and argumentative essays. As you know, English 2 is a requirement for graduation. All students will be held to high standards and will have the same overall learning objectives and will be given multiple different activities and assignments and practice these objectives and to demonstrate their mastery of learning. Rather, each student will be provided with activities, tools, and strategies specific to their level in hopes of helping all students master the Common Core State Standards. The following are tentative topics to be addressed in this course:

* Short Stories
* Workplace Documents
* Fall From Innocence Unit: *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles (Please consider purchasing this novel to allow for writing directly in the text, annotating, taking notes, and building your personal library).
* Autobiographical Narrative
* Duality and Double Unit: A *Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens (Please consider purchasing this novel to allow for writing directly in the text, annotating, taking notes, and building your personal library).
* Children’s Books & Fables
* Shakespeare: Power and Ambition Unit (May cover one or more of the following: MacBeth, Henry IV- Part 1, Othello, Julius Ceasar)
* Persuasive Speaking and Writing
* Poetry
* Vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and language conventions (continuous)
* Approved/assigned outside reading books (1-2 per semester)

**Course Objectives - Students will:**

* Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, poetry, and nonfiction in varying lengths
* examine works of world literature in a culture context and appreciate the diversity and complexity of world issues
* use textual evidence to support analysis
* identify key ideas in the text to support understanding
* identify authorial choices, including word choice and structure, to convey meaning
* analyze ideas and themes across texts and mediums
* compare information across sources
* use supporting information in writing
* gather and report information in writing
* revise and publish writing of varying lengths
* participate and communicate effectively in collaborative discussions
* present information clearly
* make strategic use of digital media to enhance presentations
* acquire and use vocabulary
* demonstrate command of standard English grammar and usage

**Materials You Should Bring to Class Everyday:**

No student will not be allowed to leave the class for missing materials. You will be held responsible to keep track of and bring the following items to class everyday:

* 3-ring binder with a section for the class (this may be used for other classes too)
* Pens (blue or black ink), pencils (mechanical preferred), and highlighters
* Loose-leaf college ruled paper
* Standard composition book
* Other required materials (texts, activities, handouts, etc.)
* Student Planner
* Positive attitude and readiness to learn (this means active listening and participation)
* Self-Chosen book to independently read (1-2 per semester)

**Classwork**

* There will be daily warm-ups (“Bell Ringers”) at the start of every class. Begin on them as soon as class starts and complete them in a timely manner. All of the warm-ups will be kept in a journal. “Bell Ringer” is a daily exercise in which you will work on during the first 5-10 minutes. It may consist of short journal prompts, critical thinking analysis, common mechanics errors to correct, or rewriting paragraph for clarity and effective use of language, or any combination of assessment of devices previously learned.
* Independent reading: Students will be responsible for having a book of their choice in class everyday. Students will not be allowed to do homework for other classes at this time, or use it as nap time.
* All assignments must have the correct MLA heading to be accepted.
* Daily assignments will consist of taking notes, chapter assignments, research, Powerpoint presentations, written work, small group work, in-class essays, class discussions and individual and group projects.
* Read assigned text and be prepared to actively participate in class discussions based on the reading.

**Homework**

* Successfully complete all of assigned work as designated on the board and/or instruction.
* Review and reflect upon notes and completed assignments. This is a good study habit that will help you retain information, prepare for tests and prepare you for college.

**Expectations:**

1. Follow all school-wide rules, including no cell phones, electronics, language, dress code, food, and academic honesty.
2. Arrive to class on time and prepared everyday and be seated before the bell rings. Be prepared for class and ready to work hard.
3. All assignments must have the correct MLA heading to be accepted.
4. Arrive to class with the required materials everyday.
5. Follow instructions the FIRST time they are given.
6. Remain seated unless instructed to get up and move around by the teacher. Be prepared to work from bell to bell. Be your best and always do your best.
7. Turn in assignments on time.
8. Your work should be you work and not copied or completed by someone else.
9. Treat everyone and everything in the classroom with respect: Listen while the teacher is explaining something. Never use foul, derogatory, profane, or offensive language. If you disagree with someone, present your opposing view in a dignified way. Don’t behave boorishly! Respect school property and maintain a clean environment. Leave the classroom better than the way you found it.
10. Students are not allowed to have food, gum, or drinks in my class. Bottled water is acceptable.

**Additional Rules of Conduct:**

1. Cell phones, smartphones, iPods, and all other technological distractions are never allowed unless teacher permitted. Such items will be confiscated otherwise. Use of these items in class during an assessment such as a quiz, test, essay, exam, presentation (even if you’re checking the time for “one second”) will result in a zero. These items must be in your bag/backpack by the time you are greeted at the door.
2. Do not wear sunglasses in class unless you have a medical note from your doctor explaining you condition. No hats or hoods are to be worn in the classroom.
3. Do not sleep in class or complete homework from other classes. This work will be confiscated and may be picked up at the end of the school day.

**Grading:**

Grades are based on a point system. All assignments will contribute to your overall grade. Assignments will vary in point value. Assignments include, but are not limited to, class work, warm-ups, homework assignments, projects, class participation, quizzes and tests.

**Tardiness**: Excessive tardiness will negatively impact your grade. I follow the school tardy policy: 5th tardy is a detention; 7th tardy is a referral.

**Categories**:

55% *Essential Skills and Mastery* Assessments(summative assessments, essay final drafts, on-demand in-class writing)

20% *Formative Assessments* (grammar, vocabulary, reading, first/revised drafts and mini-formative compositions)

10% *Habits of Mind* *and Twenty-First Century Skills* (evidence and quality of independent learning, collaboration, connection, community, initiative, \*communication/participation\*, use of academic language, critical thinking, problem-solving, use of technology, leadership)

15% Semester Final Exam

\*Communication/Participation - a record will be maintained by the teacher and calculated into the overall grades at the end of each quarter and semester. Students are encouraged to engage in class discussions. Punctuality, tardiness, inappropriate use of cell phones, iPods, and other technologies when not permitted will also be calculated into the participation grade. Effort in this category may allow for a borderline grade (i.e. 89.49%) to be rounded up (A-) with regular participation in class discussions and group work. A borderline grade will not be given consideration to be rounded if the student merely sits in class and does not participate. Effort goes a long way!

**Missed Work Due to Absence:**

* It is yourresponsibility to arrange for any make-up assessment/quiz/test/essay due to an excused absence (illness, school activity, etc.). Students who do not arrange for a make-up assessment/quiz/test/essay/ within one week after absence will receive a zero. Please come to me to collect missed work. I will not track you down to give you assignments. Late work must have the assigned due date in addition to the turned in date in order to be accepted.
* Assignments will not receive credit for any unexcused absences (i.e. truancy).
* If you’re absent when an assignment is given, you will have the number of days you were absent to make up and submit the assignment to receive full credit. For example, if you’re absent two days, you will have two days to make up and submit the assignment(s). Assignments and assessments may be completed turing my tutorial time (generally after school).
* An assignment due on the day a student is absent will be due the day the student returns to school. This, however, does not apply to major assignments, which must be turned in the day it is due.
* If you do not understand the subject matter covered in your absence, arrange for a time to come in for additional help. You are responsible for all notes you missed and assignments.
* If you know you will be absent from class because of scheduled activities, games, field trips, college visitation, appointments, etc., you are required to turn in homework and major assignments that are due. You must also arrange a time to take an assessment/test/quiz/presentation BEFORE your absence.

**Late Homework:**

Late homework will receive a grade reduction if turned in after the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after one week from the due date. Late homework may not be corrected as promptly as homework turned in on time. Late homework may be lost as it is not with the rest of the homework assignments.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:**

Plagiarism--copying and claiming other authors’ words and ideas as your own without appropriate citation-- and cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is a major infraction and will result in an automatic zero with no opportunity to be made up. First offense results in a zero on the assignment, and conference with parent/guardian and counselor. Second offense results in a referral to administration and may prevent passing the course.

**Hall Passes**:

Students must obtain permission from me prior to leaving the room and must have a pass with them at all times while in the hallways. Passes will not be given during the first or last ten minutes of class. Only one emergency bathroom pass will be given each quarter.

**Behavioral Guidelines:** You have received your first warning having read through the syllabus together.

1. First offense: Conference with teacher.
2. Second: Conference with teacher, counselor and/or coach-- in addition to contacting parent.
3. Third: Referral and parent conference.

\*A serious class disturbance or inappropriate behavior will result in immediate referral and removal from the class. Writing on desks and other destruction of classroom property will result in referral and detention.

**Expectations:**

Students are encouraged to communicate with me if: A problem arises, clarification or extra explanation is needed. I have extremely high expectations for each of you. I expect every student to complete all assignments and to reach the best possible grade they can in this course, in addition to demonstrating maturity and desire for growth. It is each students’ responsibility to invest and make the most of their education.

Although this course, its policies, and its procedures may seem overwhelming, don’t fret! I am willing to meet you halfway, but you need to commit to excellence as both a learner and member of this classroom. I’m certainly open to your ideas and suggestions, so do not feel as though you cannot make your concerns known. Again, welcome to the class -- I hope that it will be an experience that changes the way you think about language and communication.

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| **“To give anything less than your best, is to sacrifice the gift.” - Steve Prefontaine** |

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ERWC 2017-2018\_\_Sanders

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

After reviewing the class syllabus and behavioral plan, please print your name and sign below. Please provide, if available, an email address and/or phone number you can best be reached to communicate. **Students, return this portion to me no later than Friday, September 2, 2017.** Keep the remainder of this syllabus for your use.

Please note that the class syllabus and behavioral plan is available for viewing on our Google Classroom Website in the class folder on the left hand column: https:......

I have read the syllabus entirely and understand the above course syllabus, including expectations for student behavior and the grading and assignment policies. I also understand that by signing this form I agree and will (allow my child to) participate in a classroom that will cover sensitive and mature topics.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Student Name**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Parent/Guardian Name**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature**

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_