Language Arts Syllabus
High School

Mr. Barham   Room #14

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Welcome back. Whether you are beginning high school in 9th grade or finishing up as a senior, I hope you have had a relaxing summer and are ready to start a new school year. Each course that I teach is intended to be an extension of your previous experience in English and will help you grow as a writer, a reader, and a student. Those of you who have already had my class in previous years will probably notice a pattern.

Classroom Rules:

- I will treat you with respect, so you will know how to treat me.
- Feel free to do anything that doesn't cause a problem for anyone else.
- If you cause a problem, I will ask you to solve it.
- If you can't solve the problem, or choose not to, I will do something.
- What I do will depend on the person and the situation.
- If you feel something is unfair, discuss it with me after class.

Required Materials:

- GSD-issued Laptop
- Pen or Pencil
- Class Notebook
- Novel for Outside-of-Class Reading

Grading

Outside-of-Class Reading – 10%

At Genesee High School all English students are required to read material outside of the assigned novels that are used for the classroom curriculum (1000 pages per semester). Students may choose any novel they like, subject to my approval. Not every book is acceptable for this assignment, but a recommended list will be provided which includes some appropriate, challenging, and diverse titles.

Tardies – 10%

For most students, tests and important presentations or projects seem like the scariest items on the grading list. But for many, the hardest part is being on time with the proper materials. Students who arrive late or unprepared are subject to the GSD tardy policy (1% per tardy).

Assignments – 20%

Most of our classroom assignments will be completed using Google Classroom and the accompanying applications on the school-issued computers. From vocabulary to quick quizzes to short writing assignments, your daily practice in class is measured here.

Notebook

Every student will be provided with a classroom notebook for use only with this class. This is our primary way of capturing and recalling important vocabulary and concepts from information I present. If you are absent, you need to make sure you get the notes you missed.

Assessments – 60%

Essays, presentations, tests, and other projects make up the largest portion of the grade. Why? Because these are each opportunities to show what you know about literature and writing.

If you receive an assessment grade that you're unhappy with, see me and we'll work out a plan that lets you demonstrate your knowledge more accurately.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. It is important that each student is doing his or her own work. Collaboration skills are more important than ever, but it will be clear when it is unacceptable to get help from others. Students caught cheating will receive a zero on the particular assignment and will be subject to the school cheating policy.

Late Work

Turning in your work on time is an important part of being a high school student. If an assignment is late, be prepared to receive reduced credit. The longer you wait, the lower the grade will be.

That said, it is more important to complete the course work than to just be on time. So, if you've dropped the ball on an assignment, see me and we can work out a plan.

Student Responsibility Statement

Please read, sign, and get your parent/guardian's signature:

We understand that parents, students, and teachers must work together to provide the best education possible. We have reviewed and understand the classroom information and grading policies. We specifically note that student responsibilities include:

- Regular attendance in class.
- Behavior that helps to provide the best learning environment for all.
- Bringing all required materials to class—**including a fully charged laptop each day**.
- Completion of assignments and participation in class.
- Arranging for and making up all missing work within the allowed time following an excused absence.

Student: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____