

Improvement takes hard work; improvement is worth the hard work

JUNIOR ENGLISH

Instructor: Mr. Andrew Giddings

Phone: 253-517-1100

E-mail: agiddings@fife.k12.wa.us

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main goal of this Junior English class is to prepare students to learn the skills and gain the confidence necessary to be successful in Senior English courses and college. During this course, the instructor hopes students will gain knowledge and experience academically and personally. Fife curriculum and guidelines will be utilized throughout this course. This class will survey American Literature (in no particular order) beginning with Early America and ending with Modern American Literature. Also important in this class is the development of writing skills. The focus will be on implementing the Jane Schaffer method of organization and the Toulmin method of argument to help develop good habits in balancing evidence and analysis in different types of writing.

READING

- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Literature & Language* published by McDougal & Littell
- Assorted poems, essays, and short stories not found in our ancient textbook

In addition to whole-class readings, students must complete at least one non-fiction title and one fiction title. Students will have the opportunity throughout the course to expand their personal reading through regular Sustained Silent Reading (SSR).

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS (including but not limited to the following):

Various Essays and Projects

Junior English Research Paper

Research Project Presentation

Graduation Portfolio Update

1. Personal Statement / Reflection Paper

2. Cover Letter

Vocabulary

GRADING SCALE

The following grading scale applies, including Fife's attendance and compliance policies. **Your attendance can affect your grade. Consult the student handbook for FHS policy.**

93-100 A

83-86 B

73-76 C

90-92 A-

80-82 B-

70-72 C-

87-89 B+

77-79 C+

60-69 D

Your grade grows out of the work/papers you hand in on time, the tests you take, your effort, and class participation. Work is always due at the beginning of class on the day it is due. If you are going to be gone, turn in your work early or email it to the instructor. Family vacations during school do not excuse students from doing their work and turning it in on time. Bear in mind that some in-class work cannot be replicated ***It is the student's responsibility to find out what they missed and to make up what work they can.*** Grades are posted on GradeChecker every week.

CLASS GUIDELINES TO KNOW:

1. If a paper is due on Friday, and you are sick at home, your paper is still due Friday.
2. Do not ask to use the bathroom within the first 30 minutes of class, unless you wish to take a tardy.
3. Come to class prepared. If you do not have paper, pen, or the required novel, I strongly suggest fixing the problem before class begins. Neither I or your classmates exist to pick up your slack.
4. This classroom is open seating, but if a class abuses this privilege, I will assign seating.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Arrive on time and be in your seat with all materials
2. Respect the speaker by staying seated and listening (total focus) to them
3. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
4. Cell phones and various types of portable music players must be turned off and kept out of sight per school policy
5. No food or drink (However H2O is encouraged)

BELIEF OF THE INSTRUCTOR

Intellects develop in community discussion and debate through engagement and participation; intellectual laziness and disengagement only foster apathetic mediocrity.

I wish you the best of luck this semester. If you ever need extra help in my class, my door is always open.

If your parents have any questions, feel free to call or email me (I am better with email).

Best Regards,

Andrew Giddings

Cut along the line and return the portion below the line.

I understand the expectations outlined in the above letter for Junior English and will call/email Mr. Giddings with any questions or concerns.

Printed Student Name

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Parent Email

Student Email