Course Title: English 1 Honors

Course #: 1217-1218

Course Description: Students placed in this honors course must possess strong skills, desire, and interest in advanced reading and writing. Students will experience greater rigor, depth and intellectual challenge, in reading volume and comprehension, writing expectations (reflections, paragraph/essay prompts, discussions) and homework load. Students study different genres with a focus on literary devices and movements, genre format, and author's purpose. They study vocabulary and grammar to prepare for standardized tests and effective written and oral communication. They will learn to write in a variety of formats (analytical paragraphs, analytical essays, creative writing, on-demand prompts, journal writing, etc.). Students prepare for entry into English 2 Honors.

UC/CSU Approval: “b” approved
*Local honors weight only, not UC/CSU approved as an honors course

Grade Level: 9

Estimated Homework Per Week: 3 hours, depending on the type of assignments and student's reading/writing stamina

Prerequisite: HSPT (Placement determined by the reading comprehension and English scores on the HSPT exam and recommendations.)

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:

Course Grade Categories:
- Assessments/Projects: 30%
- Tasks - Homework/Classwork: 20%
- Academic Writing/Papers: 30%
- Final Exam: 20%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Semester 1
1. Short Stories:
a. Essential Questions: How do authors present universal themes/life lessons in their short stories? How does an author's use of literary devices aid in their telling of the story? How and to what extent does an author's life influence their work?
b. Assessments: Literature Analysis Paragraph (Claim-Data-Warrant style), Literary Devices Assessments, Unit Exam, Descriptive Paragraph (Creative Writing)

2. Classical Mythology:
   a. Essential Questions: In what way does Greek/Roman mythology provide for a deeper understanding of human nature? How does Greek/Roman mythology connect to aspects of modern life and literature?
   b. Assessments: Hero Cycle Assessment, Socratic Seminars, Unit Exam, Mythology Synthesis Essay

3. Novel:
   a. Essential Questions: How does an author use literary devices to develop characters, setting, plot/conflict, and themes in a novel? What effect does the author's style have on the readers? How is an author's worldview seen in a novel?
   b. Assessments: Dialectical Journals and Socratic Seminars

Semester 2

4. Dystopia Unit
   b. Assessments: Dystopia Analysis Sheets, Socratic Seminars, Dystopia Group Project, Dystopia Synthesis Argument Essay, Unit Exam

5. Research Unit: Non Fiction and/or Poetry:
   a. Essential Questions: How does an author use poetic devices to establish tone, mood, themes, and meaning in a poem? How does one poet demonstrate style and themes throughout a large body of work? How do nonfiction pieces contribute to the understanding of other literary genres? How can we analyze nonfiction writing in order to gain information from it? How do we conduct academic research? How do we synthesize multiple sources on a topic?
   b. Assessments: Poetry Analysis Sheet, Socratic Seminars, Unit Exam (including times/on-demand literature analysis paragraph in CDW style), Research Project

6. Drama: Romeo and Juliet & Cyrano de Bergerac
   a. Essential Questions: How do playwrights develop characters, setting, plot/conflict, and themes in a play? How do various film adaptations adapt the script of a play?
   b. Assessments: Dialectical Journals, Socratic Seminars, Literature Analysis Essay
Independent Reading (throughout)

a. Essential Questions: What are our different motivations and purposes for independent reading and how do we choose books based on this? How do we foster a greater appreciation for reading books?
b. Assessments: Book Review, Metacognitive Reflection and Conference