

# English II Honors Spring 2017

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## Station Camp High School Mission Statement

*Station Camp High School, in partnership with its community and parents, will develop students who have a learner's heart, are honorable in speech and conduct, and are effective citizens with compassion for our world.*

## English Department Mission Statement

*The English Department, while encouraging respectful attitudes and independent thinking, desires to help students develop the reading and writing skills they need to enhance their life and to be successful in an international society. We hope to provide students with a broad knowledge of the history and development of literature and to foster a love for reading through a serious study of the English language.*

## OBJECTIVES

Before they leave this class, I expect my students to...

- **Master** the essential elements of the short story, novel, poetry, and nonfiction genres.
- **Build** an impressive vocabulary and be able to use the words in written work.
- **Practice** several distinctive types of writing, including descriptive, informative, and persuasive essays and be able to accurately cite their research sources.
- **Exercise** reflective and critical writing skills by actively composing a weekly journal.
- **Improve and expand** their fundamental grammar skills through practice in literature and composition.
- **Pursue and create** unique methods of presenting information through auditory, visual, and kinesthetic means.
- **Communicate** effectively through small public speaking roles.
- *Above all else, become a better person.*

These objectives are in accordance with the Tennessee State Standards.

## OUR ENVIRONMENT

- I cannot emphasize enough the importance I place on the instructional period of time students spend in my class. Students will be **in class** and will be **working**.
- I do not anticipate, nor do I tolerate distractions, disruptions, or disrespectful behavior directed at me or to another student. This includes—but is not limited to—any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
- This is a classroom of **respect, choice, and opportunity**. All students will be given equal portions of the three.
- Just as students should be in class on time, I expect their assignments on time. **I do not** accept late work of any kind.
- Make-up tests/quizzes will be taken in detention or by appointment scheduled within 3 days of return from any absence. Furthermore, **unexcused absences** result in no credit for assignments per the SCHS Student Handbook.
- My grading is based on a total points system. Tests and essays are 100 points, projects are 50-150 points (depending on length), Friday vocabulary quizzes are 25-40 points, journals are 10 points each, reading quizzes/homework are 10-50 points (depending on length), and quote exercises are totaled as one large grade every 4 ½ weeks. Additional assignments may be given up to 50 points. I offer one or more extra credit assignments every nine weeks. While participation in class is absolutely required, students can also earn extra credit by providing extraneous insight or information of which the class was not already aware.
- This class is structured in a way that students **always** have homework, be it studying for a Friday vocabulary quiz, finishing a weekly journal, searching for a vocabulary word for Monday, reading an assigned book, working on an extended project, etc.
- Unless otherwise directed, phones, iPods, electronic reading devices, etc. are not to be used in class. Furthermore, each student is expected to wear **their ID** to class every day. These policies will be followed and enforced.

## LITERATURE

We will read five books during our semester, perhaps more if time permits. Students will be given at least 1 week to find and purchase the novel before it is discussed in class.

Here are our required books for the year:

- *I Am Legend* – Richard Matheson
- *Black Like Me* – John Howard Griffin
- *The Glass Menagerie* – Tennessee Williams
- *Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury
- *Julius Caesar* – William Shakespeare (students will not need a copy)

In addition, students were required to read Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*. Emily St. John Mandel's *Station 11* was also offered as an extra credit project. **They will complete a test and a project for these works within the next few weeks.**

The above books can be found in stock or ordered at all major bookstores. I highly recommend students trying the local libraries (Hendersonville, Gallatin, Goodlettsville, White House, and Portland all have one) and asking upper classmen who may have copies. Also, used bookstores like The Book Attic (Rivergate) and Miss B's Used Books (Hendersonville) are great resources and can sometimes even order the books for cheaper prices than the major bookstores like Barnes and Noble or Books-a-Million. **The easiest way to find a book is to order it online** at Amazon.com, Abebooks.com, or any of the major booksellers' websites (barnesandnoble.com, booksamillion.com, etc.) This will nearly guarantee you a copy of the book, but time must be allowed for shipping. **Our class website has a link to buy hard copies and electronic copies of each book.**

## SUPPLIES (Not required, but very much appreciated)

\*Expo Markers

\*Kleenex

\*Paper Towels

\*Candy (for games)

\*Expo Erasers

\*Hand Sanitizer

**Magic markers** (for projects)

**Colored Pencils** (for projects)

**Packages of printer paper**

**Epson 69 Black or Colored Printer Ink** (for printing essays or projects in class so you don't have to at home)

## COMMUNICATION

I urge you to check the class website at **mistercoachg.weebly.com** for daily and weekly updates. In fact, this document and the class schedule can be found there for your reference at any time. Also, I update my Twitter (@MeLikeEnglish) regularly with class news, quiz/test/homework reminders, etc. If at any time you have concerns, curiosities or complaints about the class, please feel free to contact me at school and leave a message or e-mail me at the address above. I will return your call within 24 hours at the absolute latest.

*I have read this class introduction and understand the policies, rules, and objectives of the class. I am aware that this syllabus was required to be signed by a parent/guardian and the student and will be taken as a grade.*

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_