

Honors 10-1 English

Mrs. O'Janpa

School email cindy.ojanpa@westg.org

Webpage www.ojanpa.com/WG

Class Overview

This is an honors level English course. As such, you can expect to be reading, writing, thinking, listening, and speaking. While the focus will be on a survey of world literature, you can also expect informational text as well as opportunities for independent reading. We will work on reading skills that will help you read closely, go beyond basic comprehension, and think critically about a text, analyzing its components to deepen understanding and enjoyment of the text itself. What does this mean to you? You will become a better reader, and you will become a more well-rounded, more literate person.

Grammar study will focus on sentence structure, punctuation, and agreement issues. Vocabulary will be gleaned from the literature as well as ACT lists, and you will be expected to make connections to these words that will enable you to incorporate them into your working language. Writing will take several forms – expository, argumentative, analytical, and literary. Much of this will be done in class.

Additionally, you will be expected to participate. It's ok to be unsure, to make mistakes. It's how you grow; it's how you learn. We've all been there. What's not ok is not to try. Expect to be called upon; expect to volunteer; expect to take responsibility for your learning. You will grow a lot this year – it's a transition that will result in many of you being ready to move on to honors 11 English or an Advanced Placement course the following year.

Expectations

1. Organize

- You will need your charged chromebook, a binder or notebook/folder for this class as well as pens/pencils.
- It is good practice to save all graded papers.
- Please bring materials to class; passes will be limited.

2. Participate

- This means do your work, be kind to your classmates, and be ready to talk!
- Leave your phone in the holder everyday to minimize distractions, and expect to remain in the room; again, passes will be limited.

3. Be Resourceful

- Where there's a will, there's a way. Talk with me if you need help finding it. I'm free 3rd, 5B, and after school most days... just let me know to expect you.

Remember: All student handbook rules apply. All choices have consequences. Positive choices result in better learning, good emails/phone calls home, and treats. Negative choices result in frustration, poor grades, suspension points, and parent/counselor/administration intervention.

Not everything will be graded, but everything counts.
Everything you do is practice so that you're ready to
demonstrate your learning when the time comes.

Homework. We will try to do as much of our work as possible in school so that you can use your time at home as you wish. Some of our work will be assigned well in advance of its collection, so it will be up to you to manage your time. When you do have homework, even if it is "just reading," it is important for you to do it. It is not optional. Remember you will need to be close and careful readers to be able to participate in discussions, to demonstrate certain reading and thinking skills, and to write with authority.

Writing. You will have writing to do both in and out of class, and again, not all of it will be graded. So why do it? Again, it's about opportunity to practice. The only way to improve as a writer is to write. You will be given rubrics to guide you, feedback to help you, and time.

Grades. Grades will be calculated on a total points basis, but what you will notice is that reading and writing will constitute the majority of the points. You will also receive grades for grammar and vocabulary assessments as well as participation/effort.

Overall, you may have fewer grades in the grade book for this class than you do for other classes. That makes each one more meaningful and more important, but you should also have ample opportunities for practice before each. Because each grade represents a learning experience, each **MUST** be completed to earn a grade for this course -- incompletes will be issued, not zeros.

Turning in work late is a bad habit. Communication is key. I am much more understanding if we've spoken about it in advance, or if it was a one-time mistake rather than a perpetual cycle. If you are having an issue getting work in on time, you can expect emails home. Reduced credit is also likely.

Testing. Yes, you will be taking the ELA II AIR test in the spring. Embrace the opportunities to learn this year, and you will be well prepared!

