

Guidelines and Classroom Expectations For Miss Kellam's AP English Class

Grading Policy: Grades are based on tests, quizzes, homework, written assignments, and oral presentations. All are weighted the same, but larger projects, papers, and tests will be worth a larger amount of points.

Grading Scale:

A = 93 - 100

B = 83 - 92

C = 73 - 82

D = 65 - 72

F = 00 - 64

Semester Exams: All students will be responsible for a cumulative exam each semester. Each exam will consist of that semester's vocabulary and a written portion focusing on the writing strategies presented during that semester.

Semester Grades: Your semester grade is calculated by weighting each quarter at 45% and your semester exam at 10%.

Extra Credit: I do not offer individual extra credit or end of quarter "panic" extra credit. Throughout the semester the entire class will be given extra credit/bonus question opportunities on tests and quizzes. All students also have the opportunity to earn extra credit by incorporating vocabulary words into their written and oral assignments. Remember there is a limit of seven bonus points for any one assignment.

Alternate Texts: While I select texts with carefully chosen objectives and rationale, a student who is unduly disconcerted by a text may request an alternate, thematically related text. Such requests must have a sound basis for objection.

Extra Help: I will be available for any extra help you may need before or after school or during my prep period, which is 7th period this year. Please let me know if you need to speak with me so that I can be sure to be in my room.

Absences: Daily attendance is very important. Poor attendance will most likely result in a poor grade. You are responsible for completing any missed assignments and for making up exams and quizzes if you are absent. All make up work must be completed in the allotted time, two days for every day absent. This extension applies ONLY to work assigned on the day of the absence, not to work previously assigned or scheduled.

Late Work: Because this is a college level class, the requirements will be more stringent. Only **one assignment each semester** will be accepted late at 50% of its original value. To avoid any penalties, be sure to plan ahead for all assignments. "The computer wouldn't print," "The email

didn't come through," "The school computer won't read my disc/USB," or any other such excuse will not be acceptable. Feel free to use the computers and printers in the classroom for before or after school use, NOT printing of assignments during the first five minutes of class on the day the assignment is due. At that point, an assignment is considered to be late.

Plagiarism Policy: Copying someone else's work and trying to pass it off as your own is called plagiarism and is a form of cheating. Copy/pasting un-credited blocks of text from the internet, or any other source is also considered plagiarism. Even paraphrasing or "putting the information in your own words" without crediting the source is plagiarism. In short, if something is not an **original idea** from the mind of the student, one MUST credit the source from which it came in order to avoid plagiarism charges. Such violations of integrity will earn you a zero, as well as a Saturday detention. Since a distinction between documentation errors (honest mistakes) and purposeful plagiarism does exist, cases will be carefully evaluated on an individual basis. In a college or university setting, crossing the line into academic misconduct (cheating or plagiarizing) can cause a student to be permanently expelled and in an employment situation a supervisor would have grounds for immediate dismissal. In both cases, one's record would have a permanent mark identifying them as a person lacking integrity and honesty. If you are EVER unsure of a need for citation or documentation, please ask in order to avoid a problem.

Learning Environment: In an English classroom, group discussions are a vital component. In order for learning to thrive, a student must be able to speak without fear of criticism or embarrassment. Therefore, no one will be allowed to make derogatory comments or to put down other students. Racial, ethnic, or sexual slurs are absolutely not allowed and can be cause for immediate ejection from the classroom in addition to a Thursday detention or Saturday detention depending on the severity of the offense.

Classroom Standards/Expectations:

1. Respect others.
 - Arrive on time to class.
 - Do not wear hats in the building.
 - Bring all appropriate materials to class.
 - Do not disrupt the learning process with inappropriate comments or behaviors.

2. Respect the classroom:
 - Do not bring drinks without lids into the classroom.
 - Use ipods/mp3 players **only** when given permission to do so.
 - Be sure that all cell phones are turned off and put away. If I see or hear your cell phone, I will confiscate it.
 - Snacks may be eaten in class, but they must not become a distraction (ie. no corn nuts on test days) and all trash must be thrown away.