Sophomore English Syllabus

Mrs. Ingalls

2015-2016 School Year

**Introduction:**

The goals of a good English class are: 1. To teach you how to think critically, 2. To teach you academic argumentation to defend your critical thoughts, and 3. To use literature and writing as a catalyst for 1 and 2. This class is meant to challenge how you think about what you read and write. By the end of the course, it is my hope that you are able to engage in a sustained, critical argument in conversation with established literary scholars. And, of course, it would be much to my enjoyment if you also learned how to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of the written word--the beauty of language when constructed by artists.

**The basic requirements for success in this course are as follows:**

* Participation/engagement in weekly questions through both the Weebly and in-class discussion. Each week, I will pose a critical question to the class Weebly that asks you to write approximately 100-200 words in response to the readings from the week. You must also respond, substantively, to your peers through the Weebly.
* Completion of all assignments on time.
* Passing grades on all tests and assessments.
* Completion of 1,000 pages of outside reading per semester. *Nota Bene:* I will only allow outside reading time in class if it is used properly, otherwise your reading will be done solely on your time.

**Extra Credit**Extra credit is often available to you in the form of additional (optional) test questions or written reviews of theatrical productions or literary readings. I only allow extra credit for students who complete all assignments. **If you have any missing assignments, you cannot receive extra credit.** All extra credit work must be submitted ten (10) days before the end of each semester.  
  
  
**Texts and Materials**You will receive each text you are required to read. It will be your duty to keep them so that additional copies do not have to be made. In order to make this easy, you will need a three-ring binder and dividers (to indicate one unit from another). I do not generally make extra copies, so come each day prepared and maintain your binder meticulously. Additionally, electronic copies might be posted on the Weebly and individual novels will be issued. You will supply the other materials: a pencil, paper, and a portfolio (I have all of these available if you need them). Never come to class without your text and materials.

**General Expectations**  
My rules are fairly simple inasmuch as they parallel school rules (no electronic devices except when specifically approved, no academic dishonesty, dress code, etc.). Be respectful and respectable, and we shall have a great year. If we get to where we need to have rules posted somewhere in the classroom, we can do that, but I'd prefer you act in a mature manner so that this does not have to occur. 

**Academic Expectations**  
This is a rigorous class with high expectations. I understand that extra-curricular expectations make being a student tough. I've been there myself! However, being a student is your priority, so late practices or other such impositions are not an excuse for late or missing assignments. For the most part, your work is due on the date it is due whether you are at school or not. In other words, if I assign a paper that is due on November 20th (for example), and you happen to be sick that day, your paper is still due that day--meaning you need to email it to me or have someone bring it to school for you. For each day an assignment is late, your grade for the assignment will be docked 10%. So, if you turn in a "C" quality paper a day late, it reverts to a "D" in the gradebook. Exceptions to this MUST be worked out in advance of an absence. *Nota Bene*: a prearranged absence is assurance that you will turn work in on the day it is due; it is not an excuse to turn in a late assignment.

**Projected Major Units (subject to change):**

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| **Major Unit** | **Associated Texts & Major Assignments** |
| **Drama** | *Oedipus Rex*  *Antigone*  Test over Greek Tragedy  *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*  Test  *The Importance of Being Earnest*  *Our Town*  Short Literary Response Essay |
| **World Poetry** | Poetry representing multiple countries in specified eras: Poets of the Bronze and Iron Ages; The Classical Empires, East and West; The Post Classical World; The Rise of the Vernacular; The Renaissance in Europe, Late Traditional Verse from the Americas, South & East Asia; The Seventeenth Century; From the Eighteenth Century into the Early Twentieth Century; The Twentieth Century to Present Times.  Test & Short Essay |

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| **Novel Study** | List A (one from this list)  *To Kill a Mockingbird*  *Ethan Frome*  *The Joy Luck Club* | List B (and one from this list)  *Wuthering Heights*  *Frankenstein*  *A Tale of Two Cities*  **Associated Major Assignment TBD** |
| **Short Stories & Non-fiction** | We will read a variety for short stories from authors throughout the ages and across the world.  Test and In-class Essay | |
| **Creative Writing** | You will build a writing portfolio across the genres. We will have a writer’s workshop, and, perhaps, a visiting writer come to speak to our class.  Portfolio publication | |
| **Final Exam** | For students who do not meet the requirements to avoid the final exams during both first and second semesters, you will have exams that will cover the entire body of literature from the respective semester. | |

**Note on the Projected Units:**

As stated earlier, the schedule is subject to change—particularly insofar as what major assignments might be required. Additionally, we will work on elements of grammar, usage, mechanics, and format throughout the year.

**Written Assignments:**

All assignments that are required to be typed are required to be composed in Google Docs through Google Drive. We will spend time during the first couple of weeks of school setting you up for this.