English 12 English and Ethics Disclosure Document

Mr. Fisher Rm. 609 E-mail: dfisher@alpinedistrict.org

2018-2019 School Year

**Course Description:**

The goal for this class is to prepare students for the academic rigors which they will face as they continue through their educational pursuits, as well as prepare students to become informed, contributing members of society. This course follows the standards set in the Utah Language Arts Core Curriculum, and will challenge students to critically analyze and write various types of texts, including various fiction/nonfiction texts. As is par for this academic level, there may be homework and it is expected that all students will contribute within class. The classroom is a community with each student being an integral member.

**Grading:**

**Students must take responsibility for their own grades.** Each student will receive the grade that she or he has earned. Practice assignments will be counted toward the participation portion of one’s grade for that day. ***Assessment assignments*, tests and quizzes are not optional. Students must complete all of the assessments to earn credit for the class. Students who miss an assessment will receive and incomplete “I” until that assessment is completed and scored.** Assessment assignments will be given a score of 0 – 4 points according to the following scale:

I = the assignment is missing, incomplete, or doesn’t meet the requirements

0 = the assignment is missing or doesn’t meet the requirements

1. = the assignment demonstrates very poor quality or extremely low proficiency
2. = the assignment demonstrates the student is not yet proficient in the assessed objective
3. = the assignment demonstrates a basic proficiency in the assessed objective
4. = the assignment demonstrates a high level of proficiency in the assessed objective

Points that the student earns will be figured into a total percentage of the points possible, resulting in a final letter grade. It should be noted that individual assignments seen as letter grades can be misleading to the overall grade that a student will receive. As such, I would suggest changing the settings within Skyward to show points earned rather than a letter grade. As well, assessment assignments may be redone to earn proficiency (and an improved grade). Below is the letter grade scale that will be used at the end of terms.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 94-100%=A | 83-86%=B | 73-76%=C | 63-66%=D |
| 90-93%=A- | 80-82%=B- | 70-72%=C- | 60-62%=D- |
| 87-89%=B+ | 77-79%=C+ | 67-69=D+ | 0-59%=F |

Grades and attendance may be checked at any time on the Skyward website by following the link from the THS website. However, due to large class sizes and the time required to read essays and other assignments, grades may not be updated on a daily basis. Papers often take a significant amount of time to read and score. I try to be as timely as possible, however please be patient.

**Class Expectations:** (See student handbook for school rules and procedures)

**All school rules and policies apply in this class.** Students will be held responsible for damage caused to classroom equipment and/or texts. For health and safety concerns, no food or drink (except clear water in a clear container) will be allowed in the classroom. **Students should familiarize themselves with the electronic device policy.** Please do not bring valuables to class. The only items allowed at the desks are items that relate directly to English 11 classroom activities.

**Attendance:** (Refer to student handbook for school policy on attendance)

Each student is expected to be in class and on time each class period. If a student is absent, he or she should check the class website and with a classmate to find out what was missed. **Students are responsible to make-up any missed assessment assignments.** Failure to do so will result in an “incomplete” and will not receive credit for the course. If a student comes in late, it is the student’s responsibility to guarantee the absence is changed to a tardy by signing in with the attendance office or with a note on my desk. **Participation points will not be awarded for time not in class (absence, tardy, and hall pass).** The hall pass should be used sparingly, and may result in missed participation points. If hall pass usage becomes excessive or habitual, the teacher will contact the student’s counselor, administrator, and/or parent/guardian.

Please remember that being absent or late not only impacts a student’s grade (and therefore, success), but others as well. As this course often has class discussion and collaborative work, lack of presence hinders the group, and showing up tardy disrupts the class as a whole. Please be here.

**Participation:**

All students are expected to participate in all classroom discussions and activities in a productive, meaningful, and polite manner. Participation points are given for in-class practice assignments, and classroom engagement. 2 points will be available each day according to the following scale:

0 = did not participate in day’s activities, was absent, or failed to meet common expectations

1 = participated below expectations (see below)

2 =participated in all of the day’s activities

Some students may earn an extra point (for a total of 3 points) for exceptional in-class performance. **At the teacher’s discretion, points may be withheld for classroom disturbances, inattention, rule violation, inappropriate behavior, tardiness, or any other lack of participation. Any violation of electronic device policy may result in complete loss of participation points for that day.** As the bulk of class is participation based, ***participation points play a significant role***in determining a student’s overall grade.

As mentioned in the attendance section, **participation points will be withheld for absences, including excused absences and school-excused absences**. An excused absence merely states that a student had a valid reason for not attending class. It does not mean that a student is excused from the work assigned during class, and students will be required to complete any assignment assigned during a class period in which they missed, however participation points will not be given. As such, participation points for an absence may be made up by completing an English-related extra-credit assignment (basic requirements may be found on my website). As these assignments merely mitigate the missed opportunities from missed classes, a student may do earn up to 8 extra credit points per term. **All extra-credit will be due a minimum of one full week before the end of term.** Double credit may be earned for valid school-excused absences. If you have a medically excused absence, come see me in person.

**Assignment Submission:**

Assignments must be neat, legible, and complete. Assignments that are illegible will not be accepted and should be resubmitted (even if late). Incomplete assignments will receive an “I”, and the student will be responsible for its completion before credit can be earned. **No-name assignments will be thrown away.**  Work should be formatted correctly. Students must take responsibility for the quality and completion of their work, and as such, no excuses will be accepted (including excuses for computer or printer issues—students have access to both at the school).

Late work will be penalized 1 to 2 points regardless of the reason it is late unless arrangements are made in advance. Should a student be absent the day the assignment is due, I will accept e-mail submissions of the assignment (due to my inbox no later than 2:45 p.m.) or a student can make arrangements with someone to turn assignment in (due to the assignment inbox by 2:45 the day the assignment was due). **Absences do not extend deadlines**. **No extra credit or late work (except in the case of an “incomplete”) will be accepted the last week of term.**

**Academic Honesty:** (Please refer to the student handbook for more information)

All students will complete their own original work. **Plagiarized assignments will be given NO CREDIT and may result in loss of credit for the class.** This may result in an administrator/parent conference. Although this may sound unfair, plagiarism in college can result in expulsion, or in the work force, can result in lawsuits and even criminal proceedings. Plagiarism is a matter which I take very seriously.

**General Notes:**

* As per the Utah Language Arts Curriculum, please note that we will be watching occasional films/clips.
* English and Ethics will be filled with interesting texts and class discussions which will challenge students’ in various ways. The more effort a student puts into class, the more value they will receive from this course. As students participate and engage with the course content in a mature and meaningful way, students will be surprised at the depth of understanding they gain into heart of humanity.
* Keys to success in my class: be here, respectfully and meaningfully participate, and try your best. You will do amazing!
* At Timpanogos High School, our culture is one of inclusive respect. We rely upon one another to help strengthen our community. Character and citizenship are integral to this. As such, maturity, personal responsibility, and integrity are required of each student.
* **Parents, please give your student permission (through Skyward) to use the school’s computers** as soon as possible, as some of our work requires access (typing essays, researching topics, etc.).

If you (student or parent) have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please e-mail me at dfisher@alpinedistrict.org or leave a voice-mail message at extension 609.

Thank you.

Please see the next page for the assigned signature sheet.

*Please read the entire document and return this page only (signed). Thank you.*

Student’s Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the terms in Mr. Fisher’s 2018-2019 English and Ethics disclosure document:

Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: