Intro to Literature Course Description

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Hello and welcome to Intro to Lit! The goal of this course is to prepare you for English classes at Community High. To accomplish that, we will be learning how to read smarter, write clearer, and think more critically. We will also be learning key literary terms, grammar, secrets for writing a powerful essay, and a lot more.

### Units Covered (at a Minimum)

- Short stories and Literary Devices
- *Of Mice and Men*
- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *The House on Mango Street*
- Basics of Poetry

### Materials to Bring Every Day

- A Google Drive account (school or personal)
- Something to write with
- A spiral reading and writing notebook that will be used solely for Intro to Lit
- A highlighter
- A choice reading book
- Some type of planner

### Grading

This course is graded on a straight-point system. This means that each quarter the grade is determined by dividing the number of points earned by the number of possible points. The approximate breakdown of the grade will be the following: 30% tests/quizzes, 35% papers and projects, and 35% homework/classwork. Each quarter is worth 40% of the final is worth 20%.

### Class Policies

- All papers must be handed in on time for full credit. For major assignments, 3% will be deducted for each block late. Late smaller assignments will be accepted for a 30% deduction within a week of the due date and a 50% deduction within two weeks of the due date. An exception to this is any deadline connected to workshopping. Generally, these deadlines must be on time to receive any credit.
- Please be here and on time! Class will start promptly each day and assignments missed due to unexcused tardies/absences cannot be made up. Assignments not turned in at the start of class may be counted as late as well.
Phones can be a wonderful educational tool or a crippling distraction. With this in mind, feel free to bring phones and use them when it is clearly stated that you can use them, but otherwise keep them off and out of sight. When it comes to misuse of phones, the first time I will have you put it away; the second time will be a discussion with me, and the third time we will come up with a plan for home.

Plagiarism in any form will result in a loss of at least 50% of the points with no opportunities for making up the points and a call/email home. Repeat offenders will face additional disciplinary measures, as specified in the Student Rights & Responsibilities Guide. Plagiarism is the use of any words, phrases, sentences, etc. from another person or place that are used without acknowledging the source. Further, if you assist in academic dishonesty (including giving, selling or loaning your work to someone or putting work into a shared file or dropbox), regardless of your intent, you may be subject to the same consequences. If you every have any questions about if something is plagiarism, make sure to ask me!

It is up to absent students to check the board, Google Classroom page, folders in the class, and/or with me for work missed while they were gone. Students are expected to turn in homework that was due the day they were absent when they return. Students may have one additional day for each day absent (excused) to make up work.

Rewrites are always accepted and encouraged for all papers turned in on time. Rewritten papers must have the original graded copy attached to the rewrite.

No peanuts, nuts, or sesame can be in class at any time. Please respect this!

Extra Credit: Students are encouraged to find their own extra credit. Extra credit can be anything that is related to the class and goes beyond the class requirements. Examples of extra credit include going to plays, performing at poetry readings, or doing non-assigned writing. All extra credit must be run by me to determine the point value/if it meets the criteria and extra credit cannot exceed a maximum of 3% per quarter. Occasionally, other extra credit assignments may be offered, but do not ask me for them!

Welcome to high school, and I look forward to a semester of introducing you to Community High!

Sincerely,

Matthew Johnson