English I Pre-AP



Ms. Cabaj

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G207

Conference Period: 5th

Welcome to Ms. Cabaj’s English I Pre-AP class! I am excited to be teaching you this year! Please read this syllabus over with your parent/guardian(s) to better understand what is expected of you and your parents in this class. Please sign and return the last page of this syllabus NO LATER than the next day of regular classes.

**Course Description:** English 1 Pre-AP is not a normal English classroom. The major expectation in your first two years of high school English on an advanced level is to prepare yourself for college level coursework, beginning in your junior year of high school.   
  
In order to accomplish this, we must cram a lot of reading and writing into two years. In high school Pre-AP classes, there is more reading and writing, period.  There is no intent to scare anyone away from this class, but it is essential to understand that there is a necessary time commitment to reading, independent study, and writing. The good news is that the teachers give intensive practice so you can receive assistance and feedback.  
  
Some reading will be completed outside of class, and **there will be homework**. Maintaining a schedule and completing your assignments on time will be necessary for passing the course. If you have difficulty completing an assignment, or if there is a concept that you don't understand, tutorials will be given on a regular basis to receive small group feedback from your teacher. It is so important that you ask questions when you fail to understand a concept or lesson; it is difficult for us to know otherwise.   
  
Don't be afraid of being wrong: In fact, think differently! Think outside the box. The most insightful discussions come from one person who dares to think differently. Begin that, starting now.

Additionally, this class will emphasize EOC exam strategies to help the student achieve success in passing the EOC test.

**MATERIALS:**

1. 2 composition books
2. Blue or black pens
3. pencils
4. folder with pockets
5. glue sticks
6. notebook paper
7. Post-It notes
8. Highlighters
9. colored pens or pencils
10. 3 ring binder with dividers

**Tutorials:** I am happy to help any student who is struggling! I am here every morning, Monday through Friday by 7:30 and I am happy to stay after school by appointment (just please let me know that you are coming). Additionally, I can offer assistance during my conference period any day.

**What are we going to Read?**

Various short stories and poems 

A Raisin in the Sun

A Midsummer’s Night Dream

Frankenstein

The Odyssey

To Kill a Mockingbird

\*Selections Subject to change at the teacher’s discretion

**GRADES:** Usually**, at least** 1 grade will be taken per week; often there are more. Progress Reports are issued every 3 weeks; Report Cards are issued every 9 weeks. Assignments are written on the board in my classroom, on my teacher page at [www.cids.org](http://www.cids.org)/corsicanhs (under Classrooms and Programs), and on **Remind** messages sent out for homework, projects, quizzes, tests, and daily assignments. All daily grades combined are worth 45% of your grade with the remaining 55% coming from major tests, essays, and projects. A midterm will be given after the second 9 weeks, and a final will be given in the spring at the end of the year. Each of these tests is worth 20% and are cumulative for that semester. As determined by the District Grading Policy, there is to be a ***minimum*** of 6 daily grades and 3 tests per each 9 week grading period.

**Daily Grades=45%**  
Classwork  
Quizzes

**Major Grades=55% **   
Tests

Essays

Projects

Each activity is given a percentage based on the amount of points received by the student and the amount of points the activity is worth.  For example, if there is a classwork assignment and it is out of 50 points, the percentage is based on the amount of points received.  If a student gets 25 out of 50 points their percentage for that assignment is 50%.

All assignments and classwork will be placed in Gradebook and will be updated to reflect the most current grade for every student. If there is an “M” next to an assignment that means that it is missing.

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

Letter Grade Percentage Points

A 90 - 100%

B 80 - 89%   
C 70 - 79%

F 69 and below

**HOMEWORK:** Homework helps to re-enforce an idea brought up in class that day or to help the students make a transition from one idea to the next. Homework assignments are not meant to be lengthy or unnecessary, but to help the class transition to a new idea that will be discussed in class or to re-enforce ideas from class.

In some cases homework will be to finish classwork or to work on an ongoing project/essay.

**PROJECTS/ESSAYS/CLASSWORK:** All essays, unless otherwise noted, must be typed, double spaced, size twelve font in Times New Roman, and proper MLA format. You will be instructed on the proper MLA formatting prior to writing any essay. Students will be instructed on how to properly format a project and what information should be presented on the project via a rubric when the project is assigned. I will make sure that the students have the necessary instructions to complete each project.

**QUIZZES:** Students are subject to pop-quizzes at any time. Quizzes are used to help keep students on track and to monitor progress during a unit of study. Pop-quizzes cannot be made up. All other quizzes can be made up if the student notified the teacher of their absence in advance. **It is the student’s responsibility to notify the teacher and choose a make-up-date for the quiz when they are absent.**

**TESTS:** There will be several tests throughout the course of this class. Each unit of study will have a corresponding test. Each test has several writing components in which students will be utilizing the information they have learned throughout the given unit of study. If you need to make up the test, you will do so during my conference time, or at another agreed upon time. You will have 5 days from the day that you missed a test to schedule a make-up date or you will receive a zero on the test.

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If a student is caught trying to pass off someone else’s ideas as their own (plagiarism) or giving/receiving answers for a test/quiz (cheating) they will receive a lower grade or zero as determined by the teacher.

**LATE AND MISSING ASSIGNMENTS:** All missing assignments will be recorded in Gradebook as an “M” until it is made up and or turned in. Classwork, essays, homework, and projects will have a deduction of 10% for every day that they are late. For example, if a project worth 100 points and the student turns it in 3 days late the most credit they can receive for that project is 70 points (10% of 100 = 10 points, multiplied by three days the student would be losing 30 points due to the lateness of the assignment). It is important that students make sure that ALL work is submitted in a timely manner. If a student turns in a project or assignment late enough that they would receive no points under the 10% rule they will receive no more than 50% of the initial point value of the assignment. If a student will be absent on the day of a project, essay, test, or quiz it is their responsibility to contact the teacher and make alternative arrangements.

All assignments are due at the start of the next class unless otherwise stated. If it is a paper assignment you will take it out and place it in the inbox in the back of the room. If you are turning in any work late you must put it in the “late work/makeup” tray at the front of the room. Label any late work with an “L” in the upper left corner of the assignment. If you have a ***legitimate*** reason that your assignment is late, you must attack an excuse form to the front of the assignment with a detailed explanation.

**TARDIES:** Students are expected to be on time and prepared for daily classroom activities. Being prepared for class means that students will come prepared with all necessary classwork, homework, projects, essays, notebooks, and writing material(s) when they enter class each day. After 3 tardies, a class detention will be assigned. Failure to come to the assigned detention will result in an office referral. Any subsequent tardies will result in an office referral.

All students will enter the classroom prior to the start of class, sit in their assigned seats and begin to work on the Warm-Up for that day.

**ABSENCES:** Absences affect the student’s ability to complete work in a timely manner and to understand the important ideas of the class. Due to our quarter system and lengthy class meetings every day,missing one class is the equivalent to missing two days of instructional time. If you were absent the previous day it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to ask me for any missing assignments and papers. You will then have one full day for each day missed to make up any missing assignments. Assignments that were due on the day of your absence are due the day you return. Any assignments that were given while you were absent are due one day from when you return. If you have any questions about the absence policy or making up work please feel free to contact me. If you know in advance that you must miss class, please let me know. Make up work is to be placed in the **Late Work/*Make up Work* tray** at the front of the classroom. Identify make up work by putting an “M” in the upper left corner of the paper. Late work is to be labeled with an “L”.

**Failures:** Daily grades cannot be retaken or corrected and that grade will stand. Ifyou faila major assignment or test, a retest may be requested. It is the student’s responsibility to ask for a retest. The student must first attend a tutorial, as outlined by the school policy. The student has 4 days from the time they receive their grade to ask for a retest and to schedule a time for the test. The test will not be the same test they failed, and it may be in a different format: for example, instead of a multiple choice test, it may be an essay. The higher of the 2 grades will be recorded, however the student cannot make higher than a 70 on any retest.

**GENERAL CLASSROOM RULES:** All students are expected to be on time to class with a positive attitude and ready to learn. ***Disrespect towards any teacher or any classmates WILL NOT be tolerated under ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.*** Students are expected to be prepared, on task, and courteous to the learning environment. It is the goal of the class as a whole to make a welcoming environment that allows for all students to be comfortable with discussions and the exchange of ideas.

1. I allow non-messy snacks and water within this class as long as students clean up after themselves. If students fail to clean up their own messes, snacking privileges will be revoked. Please fill up your water bottles before class.

2. When you leave to use the restroom you will need to take the hall pass. Please do not interrupt direct instruction if at all possible. ONLY ONE STUDENT CAN USE THE RESTROOM AT A TIME. No one may leave to use the restroom until the last 10 minutes of class (per CHS policy) or during quizzes or tests. Each student will receive 3 bathroom passes for use each 9 weeks. I will keep the used passes until grade reporting time. Each unused pass that is turned in will be worth 5 bonus points at the end of the 9 week grading period wherever the student will most benefit from the extra points.

3. You will not be allowed to leave the classroom until instructed by the teacher. **DO NOT** **pack up or wait by the door for me to excuse you.** You will be excused from class on time. Any students that pack up or wait by the door will be asked to stay after class to make up the time in which they were unproductive in class.

If you fail to abide by any rules of the classroom you will be warned verbally; if your behavior continues you will be asked to speak with me privately. If your behavior continues after in-class remediation is exhausted, you will be written up. Most disciplinary actions will be handled on an in-class basis. After school detentions are held in my room on Fridays at 4:00. Failure to come to a class detention will result in an office referral. Administration and parent involvement will occur only after in-class correction options have been exhausted in most cases. Some behaviors warrant immediate office referrals including but not limited to: profanity, cheating, fighting, refusal to give up your phone, and severe disrespect towards any teacher, the room, or another student.

**COMMUNICATION:** You are more than welcome to e-mail me with questions or clarifications. My conference period is 5th period and I am happy to talk by phone or in person to any parents or students during that time, as well as before or after school.

**CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Cell phones **WILL NOT** be tolerated in the classroom. If you choose to take your cell phone out, I will take up your phone and you will be given a ticket that you must hand to me at the end of class in order to get your phone back. If this occurs 3 times in a 9 week grading period, your phone will be handed in to the office and you will need to get it back from them. There is a phone holder in my classroom that you are welcome to keep your phone in and charge during class. If your phone rings during the class period it will be automatically taken until the end of the period. There are to be NO ELECTRONIC devices in your lap or in your ears during class. No student will have headphones or earbuds on during class lecture, discussion, or other direct instructional periods; if this occurs the electronic device will be taken for the remainder of the class period.

**PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**  Parents are encouraged to be active participants in this classroom and should e-mail or call me with any questions or concerns that they have. Parents should have access to Gradebook so that they may keep up with their student’s progress in this classroom. If there is a discrepancy in grades, please bring it to my attention immediately. Parents are strongly encouraged to bookmark the website and sign up for Remind so that they receive the most up-to-date classroom information.

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Please cut and return bottom portion

I have thoroughly read and understand the syllabus for ’s class. I understand that I am responsible for adhering to the rules and policies of this syllabus.

\*If you are interested in getting information about your student’s progress in my class please state how to best reach you, your phone number, and your e-mail address:

Best way to reach you: E-mail Phone

Phone Number: E-mail:

\*Please print your name, sign and date this page and return it the following day of class.

Student Name Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Name Parent/Guardian Signature Date