**English II Policies and Guidelines**

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**Course Description**

*English II is a rigorous course with an emphasis on composition and world literature.*

"Students in English II read, discuss, and write about both classical and contemporary world literature (excluding British and American authors) through which students will identify cultural significance. They will examine pieces of world literature in a cultural context to appreciate the diversity and complexity of world issues and to connect global ideas to their own experiences. Students will continue to explore language for expressive, informational/explanatory, critical, argumentative and literary purposes, although emphasis will be placed on explanatory contexts. In addition to literature study, students will:

* Examine non-literary texts related to cultural studies.
* Research material to use primarily in clarifying their own explanatory responses to situations and literary-based issues.
* Critically interpret and evaluate experiences, literature, language, and ideas.
* Use standard grammatical conventions and select features of language appropriate to purpose, audience, and context of the work." ~ North Carolina Standard Course of Study

**Suggested Readings:**

**Textbook:** *Epic of Gilgamesh, Oedipus Rex* – Sophocles, Various selections from the *Elements of Literature* textbook

* **Required purchases\* (recommended for Academic):** *Night* by Elie Wiesel (**ISBN-10:** 0374500010 OR **ISBN-13:** 978-0374500016), *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe (ISBN-10: 0385474547), *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare (ISBN-10: 0743482743 OR ISBN-13: 978-0743482745), and one INDEPENDENT Book Club Novel – to be determined. PLEASE PURCHASE THE CORRECT VERSION OF EACH BOOK – USE ISBN NUMBERS GIVEN).

**Other readings (provided at school):** *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, Various short stories and/or other novels, Poetry and excerpts from various regions around the world

**\*In order to gain the most knowledge in learning how to analyze texts to prepare you for Honors English III or Advanced Placement III English, you will need your personal copies of these texts to take notes directly on the pages. We will also be using these texts for Individual Reading Time (IRT) activities in class.**

**DUE DATE FOR BOOK PURCHASES:** Friday, February 17, 2016

**Textbooks & Supplemental Readings**

Textbooks are usually kept in the classroom and are not taken home. The link to the online textbook will be provided by your teacher. When books are issued to students, students assume responsibility for returning them in the same condition as when issued, except for normal wear. Charges will be assessed for lost and damaged books. Eligibility for athletic try-outs, student parking permits, lunch passes, etc., will be affected if debts are not cleared promptly.

**Grammar and Vocabulary**

* Concepts of grammar based on North Carolina Common Core Standards will be covered, including sentence structures, subject-verb agreement, and punctuation.
* Vocabulary – vocabulary in context is an essential part of the English II curriculum
* Students will be given various assignments and regular assessments

**End-of-Course Test Preparation and Writing Preparation**

All sophomores are required to focus on and learn guidelines for good academic writing that will help them to prepare for writing assessments and college entrance tests. English II students will take an end-of-course test designed by state officials testing grammar, reading comprehension, and writing skills. All assignments throughout the course of the semester are designed to successfully prepare them for this test.

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis, and involves reading and/or writing. All homework is meaningful, valuable and is expected to be completed before scheduled class time. Homework is not accepted late, unless absent.
**Grading Policy**

***Academic***

 Major assignments = 50% per quarter

 Minor assignments = 25% per quarter

 Homework/Classwork = 15% per quarter

 Student Engagement = 10% per quarter

***Honors***

Major assignments = 60% per quarter

Minor assignments = 25% per quarter

Homework/Classwork = 10% per quarter

Student Engagement = 5% per quarter

* Major assignments consist of tests, papers, and unit projects, while minor assignments consist of quizzes and other teacher -determined assignments.
* Participation and Student Engagement includes daily class activities and SMART lunch attendance.
* Grades are updated bi-weekly in Power School. The parent portal is available at https://wcpss.powerschool.com/public/.
* The final exam in every EOC course counts for 20% of a student's final grade.

**Attendance**

* Each student will benefit from and is expected to participate in classroom activities and/or discussions.
* Excessive absences (above 10, both excused and unexcused) will affect the benefits each student gains from this class, and can result in serious academic consequences, such as class and grade-level failure.
* After five absences, parents will be contacted by the teacher; ten (10) absences in a course are considered excessive.

**Make-up Work/Missing Assignments and Tests:**

* When absent, please check CANVAS for missed classwork and homework. Students are expected to complete the work listed on CANVAS that was missed while absent and return to school on pace with the class.
* **Homework is due IN CLASS and will be checked on the assigned day – there is no make-up for homework.** Homework will be checked according to teacher discretion, but students are expected to complete ALL homework assignments.
* **When students are absent, they are still expected to turn in major and minor assessments on the due dates. This may require students to email the assignment to the teacher before the start of that school day or hand deliver the assignment to the front office before the start of the student’s class period.**
* If a student is absent when an assignment is given, he/she has one day for each day absent to complete the assignment.
* Students absent on TEST DAYS are expected to set a time to make up the test **WITHIN ONE WEEK. You are expected to attend the next available SMART Lunch.** Time is available before and after school as well.
* All students are encouraged to utilize SMART lunch for make-up work and remediation.
* Major assignments will be accepted up to five days after the due date, but will receive a ten-point deduction for each day the assignment is late. After five days, the major assignment will not be accepted.
* Students should talk to their teacher if absent for three or more days in a row to create a schedule for making up the work.

**Tardy Policy**

Because Panther Creek values learning, students are expected to be in their seats when the bell rings working on the assigned task. Unexcused tardies will be addressed per the Panther Creek High School Tardy Policy, which can be found in the Student Handbook.

**Catamount Consequences**

Students who do not adhere to the school and classroom basic expectations will be handled as follows:

1. Student/Teacher Conference
2. Parent Contact/Teacher-determined Consequence
3. Lunch Detention
4. Referral to Administration

**SMART Lunch**

English department classrooms will be open for **SMART lunch on Monday B Lunch and Thursday A Lunch.**  **At these times, students may meet with group members to complete classwork, work independently on homework/classwork/makeup work, conference with me for questions or request early feedback on writing assignments, or read independently.  Student engagement credit is awarded only when students participate in these approved course/literacy-related activities.**

**Student Engagement grade incentives for SL attendance**:  A student who earns 2 SL credits before interims and 2 SL credits after interims will receive an extra 100% engagement grade per interim AND an extra 100% minor assessment grade per quarter.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is not permitted at Panther Creek High School. Students and parents should read the student/parent handbook’s section on integrity found on the Panther Creek website (http://panthercreekhs. wcpss.net).

**Ms. Wernersbach’s Expectations ☺**

**Daily Classroom Requirements:**

*Required Supplies:*

* 3-ring binder with loose leaf paper and dividers – SIX sections: Gilgamesh, Oedipus Rex, Things Fall Apart, Night/Holocaust, Independent Book Club, Writing/Grammar
* Pens and/or Pencils
* Highlighters
* Internet access

**General Expectations**

*I expect us to work together to make this classroom a pleasant place to learn!*

* Be PROMPT in arriving to class and **be in your seat** when the bell rings – you should immediately start working on your “Do Now” Bell Ringer.
* Be PREPARED to learn by having supplies and materials with you each day and on your desk, ready to use, when the bell rings.
* Be RESPONSIBLE by keeping up with assignments and turning in all work when due.
* Be RESPECTFUL of your teacher and your fellow students. Disrespect of any sort will not be tolerated. *Conduct yourself with maturity and self-respect.*
* CELL PHONE/ELECTRONICS CLASSROOM POLICY – from bell to bell, cell phones/electronics should be OFF and out of sight unless teacher permission is given for academic purposes only. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in parent communication and teacher given lunch detention.
* Be POSITIVEand Be AWESOME!
* SMILE TOO! ☺

**CANVAS**

* Please log on to CANVAS ASAP – here you will have access to important information about our class such as handouts, calendars, assignments and other useful information.
* Handouts and assignments will be posted here – please be sure to check CANVAS if you are absent or if you need to print another copy of a handout from class. You are responsible for completing work posted on CANVAS BEFORE returning to school.

**TURNITIN**

* All major writing assignments and essays will be submitted to TURNITIN to check for plagiarism AND handed in as a printed copy in class. Both actions must be done in order to receive credit for the assignment to be considered on time. USERNAME MUST BE WAKE COUNTY EMAIL.

**SMART LUNCH – ROOM 3628:**

**MONDAY – During B Lunch THURSDAY – During A Lunch**

**Mrs. Spears – Monday A Lunch and Tuesday B Lunch - Room 1620**

***In order to receive an incentive of 100 quiz grade credit for SMART lunch, students must attend four (4) SMART lunch sessions during each quarter – two before interims and two after interims.***

**Contact Information:**

Ms. Wernersbach: kwernersbach@wcpss.net Mrs. Spears: cspears@wcpss.net (Academic Class only)

*We believe communication is key to success. We encourage parents to contact us with any questions or concerns about your student’s progress this semester. You can check your student’s progress online or through email communication with us. You can also access our Canvas site for more information. Students are expected to check this site when absent and complete assigned work. We are also available during SMART Lunch in Room 3628 and after school in Room 3622.*

*Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to working together in helping your student to grow as a writer, reader and learner during English 2.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ms. Wernersbach, English 2 Teacher*

*Ms. Cole, ICR Teacher (Academic Class only)*

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