

Welcome to Sophomore English

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First off, I would like to admit that I have a ton of nervous excitement about this course. We are going to be using lots of new technologies and working with some new materials, so I'm pretty anxious about getting this all started. Plus, this course is going to be focused around a central theme for the first time ever (I'll talk more about this later, so stay tuned).

To being with, I would like to go over our classroom expectations and requirements.

1. **Respect:** This will be required of everyone in our classroom at all times. RESPECT means that we will not use foul language, that we will not make anyone in class feel uncomfortable or unsafe at any time, that we will be considerate of the material objects that belong to our classroom, and that we will listen to one another.
2. **You are expected to be here on time every class period.** You will be excused the first two times you are late without a pass. On the third occasion and every one thereafter, you will be issued a detention.
3. **You are expected to be prepared for class once the bell rings.** You need to be prepared with materials required for this class every class.
4. **Readings, classwork, and homework will be completed on time.** If you are absent or missing work for whatever reason, you need to make arrangements with me to complete your work. You may check our class blog at www.derapsclass.blogspot.com to see what you missed in class.
5. **Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.** If you are found to be copying someone's ideas or work, you will receive a zero on that assignment and we will be having some long discussions.
6. **You may eat and drink in this classroom.** That said, if your eating and/ or drinking becomes a distraction you will be asked to put your food and/ or drink away.

General Overview of What We'll Cover

As a student in this course, you can expect:

- To evaluate yourself as a learner
- To participate in class discussions and group work
- To complete polished collections of writing
- To read a variety of works from various genres
- To utilize technology on a regular basis
- To be challenged in your thinking
- To always have an SSR book to read

The materials for this course are made up of various selections of multicultural literature. Through various works, we will be thinking about the choices we make in comparison to the choices the characters are making. Here are some of the works that we will be reading:

Night by Elie Weisel
The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
African American Poetry
Monster by Walter Dean Myers
Macbeth by William Shakespeare

Writing is also a huge part of this course. We'll complete two common assessments called Words, Words, Words and Book Buzz, which are assessments that all sophomores complete. Also, you will create various writing projects throughout the year. Some of these will be (a little) similar to the multigenre project that (most of) you completed at the end of last year. In addition to hard-copy writing, you will be maintaining a personal blog and using our class blog and wiki on a regular basis (once student laptops are available).

Grading

It is important to remember that no one grade will ruin your chances for success in this class. No grade for complete work will receive a grade less than a 50%. Any work that scores below a 50% will be entered into the grade book, but you will have the opportunity to improve upon it. Work that is not handed in will be marked with a zero. You will have the opportunity to finish incomplete work and/ or missing work through the Extended Day Program during the school year to gain credit for this class. If your work is not completed by the end of the school year, you will be recommended to the Extended Year Program.

Also, if you are having trouble understanding or completing work on time, I am available to help you during periods 1 and 3 on both gold and blue days **IF you make arrangements with me AHEAD** of time. You will need a pass from me to come in for extra help during these periods as there may be others needing my help and attention.

Here are the categories under which you will be graded this year:

Academic Initiative (Learning Practices Rubric and homework): 10%

Formal Assessments (Major projects, papers, tests): 45 %

Informal Assessments (Smaller projects, writings, quizzes): 45%

**A standards-based report card will be issued at the mid-point and end of this school year.

First Assignment

Your first assignment for this class is to bring the next page back to me next class signed and dated by yourself and a parent/ guardian.

Please share the previous pages with a parent and/or guardian.
Please sign and date in the appropriate fields below to show that you and your guardian feel you understand the information explained in the previous pages.

Parent/ Guardian:

Date:

Please list an email and/or cell phone number where you can be reached for updates and information:

Student:

Date:

Open House is going to be held on **Wednesday, September 2nd** in **Condo 5** (the brick one).

If you are unable to meet at this time and would like to schedule an alternate meeting time with me, please feel free to email me at **hderaps@mtbluersd.org** or phone me at school at **778-3561**. Even though students are entering into high school, they still need support from both home and school in order to make it to graduation day!

Thanks in advance for your support and communication,

Mrs. DeRaps