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## Class Overview

*English II Honors* is the study of American authors, their greatest literary contributions, and the historical and philosophical movements that have molded American literature. Critical, interpretive, and on-time reading will be stressed. Writing assignments, such as informal response writing, in-class essays, full length formal essays, and research papers will call for the use of different styles or tones. The refinement and enhancement of writing skills will include successful strategies for Advanced Placement writing. Oral communication is an integral part of this class, and speech/class presentations will be integrated throughout the year. I am here to help you succeed and encourage you to contact me for further clarification or extra help. Welcome to Sophomore Honors!

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## Required Materials

*Class calendars and various course documents can be accessed on our class website: [drdreyer.weebly.com](http://drdreyer.weebly.com).  
If you have any questions about the use of this instructional site, please let me know.*

### Supplies:

- ✓ a #2 pencil
- ✓ a blue or black pen
- ✓ a folder (devoted exclusively to this class)
- ✓ a notebook
- ✓ the appropriate text
- ✓ assignment notebook

### Texts:

- ✓ American Literature textbook
- ✓ *The Catcher in the Rye*
- ✓ *The House on Mango Street*
- ✓ *The Old Man and the Sea*
- ✓ *The Scarlet Letter*
- ✓ *The Crucible*
- ✓ *The Great Gatsby*

You will have an opportunity to purchase these novels within the first few days of school at our NVHS Book Fair.

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*In addition to the rules in the NVHS Student Handbook, the following expectations will be enforced in my class:*

### ATTENDANCE & TARDY POLICIES:

- All students are expected to be ready for class to begin when the bell rings. **Tardiness is not acceptable.** Excessive tardiness will result in parent contact and eventual referrals.
  - Consistent class attendance is imperative. Because a majority of the material covered in this course is read and discussed in class, one missed day can cause a student to fall very far behind.
  - In case of an absence, it is the responsibility of each student to email the teacher in order to find out what he/she missed in order to be caught up for the next class.
  - Bathroom use is reserved for emergencies.
  - Some classroom activities cannot be made up outside of class. Your participation grade will be based on attendance, attentiveness, appropriate classroom behavior, readiness, and verbal contributions.
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### CLASSROOM RULES:

- **Respect the learning process.** I expect you to engage yourself in daily lessons, demonstrate your best work, and reflect on your growth throughout the semester. (In other words: BE ACTIVE IN THE LEARNING PROCESS!)
  - **Respect the time we have together.** Be in your seat ready to begin when class begins, and do not start packing up your supplies or lining up by the door before class is over.
  - **Respect each other.** Do not talk or be disruptive while I am teaching or while others are talking or performing. This class is based on intelligent discussion and argument. It is imperative that we afford everyone the respect we'd expect in return.
  - **Respect the learning environment.** We share this room with current and future students, please respect it.
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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT GRADING POLICY:** *Grades will be updated every three weeks.*

Category	Description	%
Speaking and Listening	Includes group work, full-class discussion, Socratic/fishbowl activities, presentations, non-verbal participation	80
Writing	Includes 6 major writes/semester plus other writing activities and assignments (such as one-sentence summaries, written participation slips, etc.)	
Assessment	Includes quizzes, tests, writing, formative checks, and grammar	
Preparation, Effort, and Participation	Includes assigned reading, homework, materials	
Final Exam	Includes speaking/listening, reading, writing, and grammar components	20

*In this class:*

**A work:** Student performance consistently exceeds expectations/demonstrates comprehensive understanding of the subject

**B work:** Student performance meets and at times exceeds expectations and indicates good preparation in the subject

**C work:** Student performance meets expectations and demonstrates adequate preparation in the subject

**D work:** Student performance is inadequate or inconsistently meets expectations

**F work:** Student performance consistently fails to meet expectations

Feel free to schedule time with me to discuss a grade. Appointments must be at least 24 hours after you've received the grade. This "reflection period" allows you time to reflect on the grade itself, my comments, and your work.

**TURNITIN.COM**

- If turnitin.com is required for an assignment, the assignment will not be considered "turned in" unless they are submitted online *and* to me (hardcopy).

**LATE WORK**

- Minor assignments – second day half credit. *In some cases, half credit will not be available if the assignment was needed for participation in the daily lesson.*
- Major assignments – Second day "C" max. One letter grade reduced per day thereafter.
- Extensions are possible if pre-arranged.

**EXTRA CREDIT**

- Extra credit is an extension of the learning process. It will not exceed 5% of the semester points and will not be available to students with missing assignments or excessive absences.

**FINAL EXAM**

- The final exam will consist of multiple parts and will be administered over several days. This means at the end of each semester, attendance of days beyond the scheduled finals will be essential, as students will be assessed on speaking and listening, writing, and grammar skills. The final exam will constitute 20% of the overall grade.

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**NVHS HONOR CODE:**

- The term "Academic Dishonesty" encompasses a wide range of offenses. Simply put, a student is dishonest when he/she turns in work other than his/her own and claims it as original work.
- I expect you to do your own work.
- Students are expected to adhere to the school's honesty policy outlined in the **NVHS Honor Code**.
- If I discover a student copying homework or submitting work that is not his/her own, I will follow the District 204 policy regarding academic dishonesty. This policy can be found in your student handbook. Please read it carefully to ensure that you understand it.

