

*“A personal commitment. It’s an attitude that separates excellence from mediocrity”
~anonymous*

MS. DIGIACINTO’S CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

English 11

Teacher: Ms. DiGiacinto (Ms. D. will be just fine ☺)

Room #: 1104

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Welcome to English 11 and the start of a fabulous school year! I look forward to the various undertakings the year holds for us, and the chance to get to know all of you individually. This is the syllabus for the year, and I have included the objectives, required materials, and rules of the class. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any information presented in this syllabus, I ask that you please come and talk to me. Communication is the key to success in the classroom.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 11 is a general survey course of English composition, American literature and language. This course consists of a variety of American authors and their writings. Reading and writing are powerful, necessary tools for success in the learning process, and we will be using them to become more aware of our place in the world various American authors have created. Writing assignments in this course will focus on the literature, but will also include more subjective essays. Although much of the writing in this course will be about literature, speaking and writing on different kinds of subjects will help further develop the student’s sense of how style, subject and audience intertwine in the writing process.

COURSE GOALS

- Students will develop sophisticated reading strategies by studying a variety of literary forms and literary techniques (short stories, novels, and poetry)
- Students will read, analyze, and respond vocally and in written form to a variety of literature from beginning to end
- Students will write narrative and expository (research paper) essays, using proper MLA format when needed
- Students will continue to improve individual strengths through various projects and group scenarios
- Each week the students will be expected to complete assigned readings and analytical reading journals in order to instill reading as life long skill

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Please make sure to bring your literature book/novel every day
- An organized folder or three ring binder for handouts and notes
- Your student agenda to record important due dates and daily assignments
- Writing Utensils: pencils, blue/black pens, highlighters, eraser
- I also ask that you have a separate spiral notebook for journaling, as it is a major part of the class and it will be turned in frequently.
- An open mind
- A positive attitude
- Respect and Manners

Rules of the Classroom

- DO NOT LIE TO ME...**EVER!!!** The integrity of an individual is found in his or her respect for honesty and character. One who cannot be honest has no respect for his/herself.
- Show respect. I respect you because you are a person. I expect you to respect yourself, your classmates, myself, and the classroom in general.
- Do your personal best at all times.

Expectation

- Please adhere to the above rules
- Students **MUST** be in the classroom and in their seat by the time the bell rings
- Students **MUST** always be prepared for class and have the needed materials
- Students may bring bottled water into the classroom. Other drinks and food are not allowed. If you need to use the restroom, please quietly excuse yourself, take the restroom pass and go to the nearest restroom. **ONLY ONE STUDENT AT A TIME!**
- Complete assignments on time. Late assignments will lose 5 points for every day that it is late---UP TO 5 DAYS! After that, the assignment will be unable to receive a percent higher than 70. I will print missing assignments sheets periodically. If missing work is not turned in by the designated date, an automatic detention will be issued for you to come in and complete the homework. Should you choose not to show to detention; a conference with the administration will be arranged!
- **ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE DUE DATES.**
- Attendance in this class is imperative. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to get your make-up work. If you have a planned absence, your make-up work is due prior to your absence. If you are absent due to unforeseen circumstances, and an assignment is due, you will be expected to turn in that assignment upon your return. Otherwise, make-up work will be handled according to school policy—the number of days absent plus one day.

- Please turn off cell phones and put them away when you come into the classroom. I-pods, MP3 players, etc. should be turned off and out of sight in the classroom, unless you have been given specific permission to use them. If you choose to use these items at inappropriate times, I will ask that you put them away out of respect for yourself and others. If the problem persists, the item will be confiscated until a student-teacher conference is held.
- RESPECT IS CRUCIAL. RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS AT ALL TIMES
- Students need to maintain a positive classroom atmosphere. This includes respect for the teacher, other adults (substitutes or guest speakers), and each other.
- Students **MUST REMAIN IN THEIR SEATS UNTIL THE BELL RINGS!!!!**

Evaluation and Grading

- The student's final grade is taken from the total points accumulated through the semester on a multitude of assignments including **BUT** not limited to the following: major pieces of writing, quizzes, exams, discussion, participation, projects, journaling, and other daily assignments.
- Participation - Discussion and active listening are essential elements of any literature course. Students are encouraged to participate on a daily basis.
- Quizzes are given periodically. They are mainly objective in nature; this means the questions will be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in, and/or matching. You will be informed of these quizzes in advance most of the time.
- A unit exam will be given at the completion of each unit studied. Although the test may include objective questions, it is weighted more heavily towards subjective questioning. Subjective questions are short answer essay and/or extended essay questions in which different answers would be accepted if **fully substantiated**. In other words... **ALWAYS SUPPORT AND PROVE WHAT YOU SAY!!!!**
- Grades will be posted throughout the term so that you may keep track of them, if you have questions, please come talk to me.

Evaluation and Grading Scale

- Grades will be determined by the following scale:
 - A = 100-93
 - B = 92-86
 - C = 85-78
 - D = 77-70
 - F = 69 and below

Plagiarism Policy

- Plagiarized daily work will earn NO credit for students involved
- Students caught plagiarizing writing assignments from others or the Internet will receive and automatic ZERO!!

Tardies

I ask that you be on time to class. This means you are in your seat, ready to go when the bell rings. If a student is consistently tardy to class, a student-teacher conference will be held where other consequences will be determined.

Student Responsibilities

No matter what is going on outside of the classroom, a certain type of behavior will be expected each day during class. This includes proper attire as outlined in the North Platte High School Student Agenda (page 20). Appropriate classroom behaviors include attitudes, conversations, actions, and vocabulary that are generally acceptable in formal situations in mixed company with adults. Inappropriate behavior such as disrespect of others or profane language will not be tolerated.

SPECIAL NOTE

I am available before and after school in Room 1104, please do not hesitate to stop in if you need help with any special concerns you may have with this class. We will be saving work completed in the computer lab directly to the system server. You will be able to access your English file from any lab with the appropriate password. ****You received your login and password - your login and password are the same as last year. I will ask you for your login and password in the next couple of days. ****

*** I am really looking forward to working with all of you. I believe this year will be incredibly exciting, rewarding, worthwhile, and fun. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop in and talk to me. ***

THANK YOU!!
Ms. DiGiacinto

Student/Parent Syllabus
Acknowledgement Form
English 11
Ms. Rebecca DiGiacinto

Graduates of North Platte Public High School who attend college sometimes return to tell us they have initial problems managing their time as freshman in college. For this reason, it is essential to build strong study skills, especially in the basic area of reading and writing.

English 11 is designed to allow your son/daughter the opportunity to learn, monitor, and practice the skills of time management. This will prepare him or her for the rigorous and challenging courses he/she will encounter in his/her senior year here at NPHS. Furthermore, these time management skills can be applied at both the collegiate and workforce levels.

As we begin this academic year, it is my sincere hope that each student will dedicate himself/herself to the intensive study that exists in this class. I believe that 100% dedication can only result in success.

I have asked your son/daughter to share with you the course syllabus so that you, as parent/guardian, can support your child on his/her way down the path of English 11. With my enthusiasm and your support I firmly believe your child will be successful in this course.

By signing this acknowledgement form, each of us will be held accountable for making this year a success. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. My contact information is on the front page of the syllabus.

Student Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Teacher Signature

Date