Ponderosa High School



English 1 Course Syllabus 2016-2017

Mrs. Luna

Room H-2

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# Course Description:

English 1 is a year-long required course in the high school curriculum. The purpose of the course is to provide opportunities and guidance for students to improve their reading, writing, speaking, research, and critical thinking skills. The curriculum in English 1 centers upon timeless themes including: Literary Elements and a Writer’s Message, The Struggle for Freedom, Moral Dilemma, Youth on the Threshold, Heroes and Quests, and Introduction to Argument. Instruction will be comprised of reading and analyzing literature and informational text, collaborative assignments, writing assignments, research activities, public speaking, class discussions, and outside reading. A large portion of the year will be dedicated to developing five-paragraph essays; in addition, students will increase their vocabulary knowledge by studying Greek roots and vocabulary from the reading selections.

All reading selections and activities in English 1 are based on the Common Core standards, and students will be using the newly adopted *Collections* textbook by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt which was created to meet the rigorous expectations of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Reading fluency is vital and so students will also participate in Silent Sustained Reading for approximately 30 minutes every Friday. Through SSR, students can become better readers, increase their general knowledge of a chosen subject area, increase their vocabulary, and become better writers. Hopefully this practice will also foster a love of reading and language. Students will be required to read at least one book per quarter and complete an in-class writing assignment or presentation at the end of the quarter. I encourage parents to become involved with your child’s selection of SSR books and to encourage your child to pursue reading for pleasure. We will begin SSR on Friday, August 19th.

**First Semester:**

Literary Elements and a Writer’s Message

Read 11 selected short stories

Analyze elements of fiction and the author’s message

Practice crafting an argument

Complete frequent quizzes and a unit test

Weekly SSR – fiction for first quarter

Performance Task - Create an original short story (2-3 pages in length w/dialogue)

The Struggle for Freedom

Read *Animal Farm* – George Orwell \*Anchor Text

Read Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Collections* –Collection 2

Review symbolism, fable and allegory

Study the Russian Revolution and the rise of Communism

Analyze Orwell’s messages and the connection to history

Frequent quizzes and a unit test

Weekly SSR – non-fiction for second quarter

Heroes and Quests

Study Greek Roots, prefixes and suffixes

Read selections from *D’Aulaires’ Book of Greek Myths*

Individual mythology presentations

The *Odyssey* – Homer \*Anchor Text

Research and apply the hero’s journey to Odysseus’ travels

Weekly SSR

**Second Semester:**

Moral Dilemma

Read *Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck \*Anchor Text

Read Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Collections* - Collection 3

Craft dialectical journals and discuss

Complete a 1920’s and 1930’s research project of 2-3 pages

Complete frequent quizzes and a unit test

Weekly SSR

Youth on the Threshold

Read a variety of poetry

Master and apply poetic devices by explicating various poems

Read *Romeo and Juliet* – William Shakespeare \*Anchor Text

Read Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Collections* - Collection 4

Weekly SSR

Perfecting the Argument

Read non-fiction selections

Complete weekly writing assignments (in-class and at home)

Practice narrative, argumentative and informative writing

Weekly SSR

**Finals:**

The First Semester Final worth 250 points will include:

* Short answer questions about the elements of fiction, *Animal Farm*, mythology, and *The Odyssey*
* A multi-paragraph argumentative essay utilizing two sources, incorporating at least four quotes, and citing correctly.

The Second Semester Final also worth 250 points will include:

* Short answer questions about the elements of fiction, *Of Mice & Men*, the elements of poetry and *Romeo and Juliet*.
* A multi-paragraph argumentative essay utilizing three sources, incorporating four-six quotes, and citing correctly.