



Syllabus

English 1-2, First Semester

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Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to English 1-2 and a challenging and rewarding semester. We will focus on reading, writing, speaking, and listening as we study a variety of fiction and non-fiction to help students achieve the California English Language Arts Standards and excel in college, in the workplace, and in civil society.

The course includes introductions to novels, short stories, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. We will study theme, plot, character, conflict, and stylistic devices. And we will practice extensively how we write about the facts and texts we study. Language conventions—grammar—are an important part of this course.

From the Mira Mesa web site (<http://www.sandi.net/miramesa>), you should already know that Ms. Love has more than two decades of teaching experience. She earned Bachelor's degrees in English and History and her teaching credential at San Diego State University. She also holds a Master's in Education and a credential in administration. Mr. Wilkinson is a graduate of Santa Ana High School, Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and the Pepperdine University School of Law. After careers as a news reporter, lawyer, and congressional staff member, and appointments in two presidential administrations, he returned to California to pursue his teaching credential, also at SDSU. In his first semester of student teaching, he taught a seventh grade English Language Arts at Parkway Middle School in La Mesa. Ms. Love is supervising Mr. Wilkinson as he completes his student teaching.

We look forward to learning more about every student. Meanwhile, following are some important things to know and to do as we prepare for a great semester.

Sincerely,

Amanda Love

Paul Wilkinson

Books

Text: *McDougal-Littell Literature*

Supplemental: (subject to change) *The Pearl, The Odyssey, The Glass Castle, and Romeo and Juliet*

Supplies

- In class each day, students must have:
- At least three pens with black ink
 - Plenty of lined, three-hole punch notebook paper
 - A three-ring binder with at least one inch of capacity

- At least two highlighters of different colors
- Small sticky notes

Students must also have tools to track assignments and deadlines. Because Room 38 is an i21 classroom, we may explore alternatives to traditional paper-based systems. (See "Technology," below.) Neatly handwritten assignments, word processed, and printed documents should be submitted electronically or on clean, flat white paper.

Procedures

Students not in assigned seats when the bell rings are tardy or absent. Failure to bring the necessary supplies will result in lower academic or citizenship grades or detention.

Academic Integrity

Work completed for this class must be each student's own. Cheating or plagiarizing results in a zero and a U in citizenship.

Absences

You should attend class each day unless ill. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due or a test is taken, you are expected to turn in work immediately upon your return. You must be prepared to take missed tests the day you return and are responsible to arrange a makeup test if you do not take the test immediately upon return.

Homework includes vocabulary, grammar, and independent reading. Students are expected to do most independent reading and work on major writing assignments outside class. Late work is not accepted unless prior arrangements have been agreed upon.

Technology

Room 38 is an i21 classroom and will use technology wisely. Initially, information will be available at <http://english-1.weebly.com>.

Each student should complete the Netbook Agreement under Classroom Procedures.

Grading

You will receive a progress report every six weeks and a cumulative grade each semester. The final grade is comprised of:

Writing	40%
Assessments	30%
Class work/Homework	30%

Final grades are based on this scale:

90-100 = A	80-89 = B	70-79 = C
60-69 = D	0-59 = F	

Support

Please make arrangements with Mr. Wilkinson or Ms. Love for additional help. They are available before school, during lunch, and after school.

Online Grade Access

Students and parents should frequently check grades on Zangle; grades will be available under Ms. Love's name.

Citizenship

Citizenship grades will follow the Mira Mesa High School citizenship rubric found in the MMHS Student Handbook. The maximum citizenship grade will be determined by attendance and adjusted based on contributions to class discussion, bringing all necessary assignments to class, being on time, and treating others and ourselves with respect. Electronics may only be used with teacher consent. Working independently without redirection, active participating in group work and discussion, listening to differing opinions with open minds, and allowing others to work undisturbed are all required as part of citizenship.

A preview of the course and more details about the rules...

The California Language Arts Standards specify that students show that they understand written materials with both oral and written responses. Expression of comprehension will look different, depending on the strategies emphasized and the standards we are mastering. Many forms of assessment will be used, including:

- In-class assignments:
 - Individual
 - Pair/group
 - Whole class
- Homework
- Student-teacher conferring
- Student reading/novel responses
- Written/oral responses to fiction and non-fiction texts
- Miscellaneous assignments
- Quizzes/tests
- Socratic seminar

All Cluster English 1-2 students must demonstrate proficiency in these areas:

- Timed writing assessments and quick writes
- Diagnostic assessments
- Response to literature
- Writing a research paper
- Persuasive essay
- Narrative (autobiographical incident)
- Oral responses to fiction/non-fiction text

Students who fail to earn a 70% or higher on proficiencies must re-take or re-write those assignments to that acceptable level or they will not pass the course, regardless of high marks in other areas.

Students in these circumstances must discuss the specifics with Ms .Love and Mr. Wilkinson.

Success is contingent on each student's daily attendance and mental and physical readiness for instruction. This means starting each class with the understanding that:

- All assignments are word processed or completed in black or dark blue ball point ink. Students should bring at least three such pens each day. Work in pencil, on messy paper, or on paper with unkempt edges will not be accepted.
- Longer papers must be prepared electronically and submitted in printed or electronic form by the deadline.
- To avoid distractions, students will keep all non-learning related materials in their backpacks or purses. **Any electronic items seen or heard will be confiscated and given to a vice principal.**
- This class adheres to the Mira Mesa policy regarding late work: **late work is not accepted and does not count.** We give no extra credit assignments.
- Students are expected to maintain a novel for outside reading at all times. They should carry such a book and bring it to class daily. Speak with your classmates, the librarian, or your instructors for suggestions on finding books you might enjoy.
- Upon an excused absence, students are allowed one extra day to make up a missing assignment. Points missed due to an unverified absence or truancy may not be recovered.
- Students with excused time absent from class must communicate with us about it before or after class the day they return to make up any work. The class web site or a "What You Missed" binder will explain what is done each day in each class; students are responsible for consulting the web site and the binder, as some assignments may not appear both places. It is the student's responsibility to document any quizzes or tests that are missed during an

absence in the make-up test binder. Make-ups are administered during the lunch on the Wednesday immediately following the absence.

We are logged in to Parent Connect and enter scores regularly under Ms. Love's name. Having access to the Internet in any setting means a parent, guardian, or student is able to know current grades. **We highly recommend that parents, guardians, and students, use this resource and openly discuss academic progress throughout the year.**

Work is the product of student thinking and creating. Cheating is not tolerated and will be addressed by the administration. All students involved in such behavior, regardless of the significance of the assignment, should expect a "0," a referral, and contact with the parent or guardian.

No students will distract themselves or fellow students from learning, including by using or displaying an electronic device without permission or by wearing clothing that violates the student handbook rules. As a reminder, banned clothing items include those promoting or related to sex, violence, gangs, or drugs. Suggestive items (too tight, too short, too low, see-through materials, bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, tube tops, tank tops) and baggy or low crotch pants are prohibited. Apparel or items that have been altered with personalized lettering, belts with more than one buckle, chains, bare feet, pajamas, and bedroom slippers are prohibited. For foot protection, students should wear shoes that have a heel strap and material covering their feet. Caps, hats, and head coverings of any kind unless it has a school emblem on it and it is the right color. This includes wearing headbands, earmuffs, head stocking caps, and scarves. In the classroom, no headgear for weather protection is needed and thus not allowed.

Each student will:

- Use words and body language that show attention to the subject matter
- Contribute to class and group discussions about the topic
- Respond appropriately to teacher prompts
- Follow the rules in this syllabus and in the MMHS Student Handbook
- Display on-task behaviors
- Enter the room in a manner conducive to everyone's learning
- Focus only on work for this class
- Keeps all other non-class materials away from the learning environment
- Keeps hands on her desk and materials
- Respect others
- Express himself with appropriate language and kindness
- Listen quietly and wait for others to finish talking before speaking
- Respect others' opinions, regardless of whether they are "right"

Please do not hesitate to seek assistance! Contact us immediately if you anticipate any issue may interfere with academic progress. The more time we have to plan, the more likely we will be able to find solutions. We look forward to a wonderful year of academic and personal growth for everyone!

Please return this page to class. Thank you.

My signature below indicates I have read and understand the policies and rules of this class and will do my best to fulfill the requirement and expectations.

Student Accountability Contract

I have read and understand the syllabus for English 1-2. I will do my best to fulfill the requirements of the course and the expectations of my teachers.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Class Period _____

E-mail address: _____

Parent Contract of Support

I have read the syllabus for English 1-2 and have discussed the course requirements and class expectations with my student. I pledge to support my student to fulfill these requirements and expectations.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Work Phone: (____) _____

Mobile Phone: (____) _____

E-mail address: _____

I prefer to be contacted by: _____