

# Welcome!

- Have a seat anywhere!
- Please place your belongings underneath your desk.

Welcome to Ms. **Swanson's**  
English class!

**9th Grade Literature &  
Composition B.  
Spring 2015**



# Today's agenda:

- Syllabus

- Website

<http://serverenglish.weebly.com>

- Write a letter to me stating your academic goals for this semester.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

- Respect others.
- Respect yourself.
- Respect the property.

# Classroom Expectations

## The 4 P's.

Be **PROMPT**: (arriving before the bell quiet and SEATED or you are *tardy*) *\*You may not exempt the final if you are tardy. After the third tardy, you will receive a detention.*

Be **PREPARED**: (completed homework, materials, and books)

Be **POLITE**: (Raising hands, not interrupting one another, avoid negative/hurtful comments)

Be **PRODUCTIVE**: (Participating, staying on task, working hard)

BYOT: Technology: Don't abuse it or lose it.

*New-ish rule:*

No technology in hallways--just lunch room & at teacher's discretion

# Other new rules:

- Purses must be pocket-sized (not big enough to carry any books)
- no backpacks in classrooms

*\*Warnings will be given first and then followed by disciplinary action (detention then referral)*

# OBJECTIVES:

9th grade literature will approach the study of American literature through:

reading +  
writing +  
listening +  
speaking +  
viewing +

- 
- critical thinking
  - better student = better citizen
  - dreamer = world changer

# OBJECTIVES:

The student will:  
read various texts, such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama, for various purposes.

# OBJECTIVES:

- employ a variety of writing genres
- understand and acquire new vocabulary
- understand literary works by relating them to their contemporary context or historical background

# OBJECTIVES:

- use research and technology to support writing
- participate in group and individual activities

# Grading

- Classwork/Homework: 10%
- Quizzes: 20%     *\*Expect pop quizzes!*
- Tests/Projects: 40%
- Research: 10% for freshmen *\*increase each year*
- Final Exam: 20%

# How is high school different from middle school?

- Colleges are looking at you now!
- **2 report cards** (one each semester stating your *final grades that go on your transcript*). The rest are simply ***progress reports*** stating your ***progress***.
- College readiness. . . Heavy emphasis on research and writing
- YOU are the responsible young adult now.

# What is Plagiarism?

## What is cheating?

[Refer to your syllabus!]



# PROCEDURES:

- All work should be completed in **BLUE** or **BLACK** ink or pencil.

- Late work is a nuisance. Turn in your work on time.

***\*\*Note: You will receive only up to 50% credit if you turn in an assignment one day late. However, if we go over the assignment's answers in class, you may not turn it in.***

# Listen Carefully. . .

*\*\*\*\*The exception to this is with your major essays and research papers, in which there will be a **ten point deduction per day** it is late.*

# MORE PROCEDURES:

- HOMEWORK needs to be turned in at the *beginning* of class.
- Trash needs to be thrown away at the beginning or end of class.
- If you have a cold, grab some tissue *before* class.
- If you have an unsharpened pencil, think *ahead* and sharpen it before the bell rings.

• • •

Basically, stay seated unless you have permission otherwise to get up.

Tardiness is lame. Be responsible.

- NOTE: IF YOU ARE NOT IN YOUR SEAT WHEN THE BELL RINGS, YOU ARE TARDY.

PERIOD.

# “Who cares if I’m tardy?”

Answer: You do.

1. Detentions by the third tardy. . .

2. *\*\*\*If you are tardy even one time, you eliminate your ability to exempt a final exam based on attendance.*

# Absences: excused vs. unexcused

- Excused-What are excused absences?
- If excused, you have FIVE days to make up the work.
- This takes place AFTER school, not in class.
- If you fail to bring an admission slip within THREE days or fail to make up the work in the designated FIVE days, you will receive a zero (0).

# Unexcused absences. . .

- What is an unexcused absence?
- You do not get to make up the work, and the work you miss counts as a zero (0) in the gradebook.
- Don't skip school! Only miss when it's absolutely necessary, because your grade:attendance depends on it!

You're not in middle school anymore. . .

- Whose responsibility is it to make arrangements for any make up tests or work?

## \*Note:

- If you are absent from class due to a sports-related activity, your assignments will be due the next day you return to class. If you miss a test due to a sports-related activity or to an excused absence and knew about the test prior to your absence, you will be required to make the test up the following day you return to school unless you have made prior arrangements with me.

# The ball is in your court!

- Again, all make-up work is *YOUR* responsibility!
- I will not remember between 125 kids who missed what day, and your grade and success depends on it!
- Practice ownership!

# Field trip?

- If you are absent due to a field trip, the assignment(s) will still be due by the assigned deadline. There will be no exceptions. However, you may turn in your work the day before your trip.
- Plan ahead! This is YOUR responsibility!

# Now for good ol' class rules:

- Be on time.
- Stay seated the entire period unless directed to do otherwise.
- You will be allowed *two* emergency hall passes per semester. [If you have a medical problem, you *must* have a documented note stating the issue and how I can best accommodate you.]
- Be prepared.

# Pet Peeves

- Keep your negative thoughts to yourself. You bring down *everyone* if and when you complain.
- You forgot it? You bought it. Failure to bring a writing utensil will cost you a dollar—yes, a whole dollar *or* a teacher detention.
- tardiness
- My property is exactly that—mine.
- Refrain from talking over one another; everyone has a worthy voice and opinion to share.

# A toddler's favorite word:

NO:

- Abusing technology privileges
- Putting on make-up
- Eating/drinking (besides water)
- Deliberately distracting others
- getting out of your seat

# Extra Help!

- I am here to help you, and I am happy to do it!
- **Note:** *However, I will only be here in the morning, because I help coach in the afternoon.*
- That means if you need to make up an assignment, get extra tutoring, or God-forbid, serve a detention, you **MUST** make it up *before* school.
- Teachers have lives too, so your best bet is to make plans with me *before* coming in to see me! :)

# What does a day in the life of American Literature look like?

- Warm up/Bell Ringer:
  - Vocabulary
  - DOL sentence
- SAT/EOCT question
- Writing concept (mini-lesson)
- Literature (fiction and nonfiction) /Writing
- CCGPS Standards
- Ticket out the door/Homework

# Class website!

- My goal is to update it weekly if not more so!

<http://serverenglish.weebly.com/>

# Homework:

- The syllabus will be due next Tuesday, 1/13.

# Goals Letter

In a one page *letter*, answer the following questions.

## Questions:

-Write a letter to me stating your goals for this semester. Reevaluate where you are this semester. Focus particularly on this class, but you may also tie in some generic goals as well.

- 1 ) Did you accomplish your goals from last semester?
- 2)What did you do well last semester?
- 3) What do you plan to improve, and how do you plan to accomplish it?

## Requirements:

- No skipping lines
- You are allowed to use only *one* linking verb (is, are, am, were, was, be, been etc.)
- Use at least *three* semicolons in your letter; this provides more variety stylistically- speaking. Anywhere you can put a period, you can use a semicolon instead. The *best* time to use a semicolon is when you combine similar ideas.