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| ../../Desktop/Screen%20Shot%202018-08-10%20at%203.48.12%20PM.png | **“The unexamined life is not worth living.”**  –**Socrates**  **Syllabus**  **English II**  **Teacher: Lindsay Watson**  **South Anchorage High School**  **2019-2020** |

Welcome to English II! I look forward to working with each of you. It is my intention to create a stimulating, challenging, and exciting environment for you because I believe that true learning only occurs under these conditions. My hope is that this class will be a stepping-stone for you in your quest to reach your fullest potential.

Additionally, employers and professors have recently indicated that people entering the workforce need the following skills to be college and career ready: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity; therefore, these skills will be emphasized throughout the year.

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If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

**I. Course Overview:**

The focus of English II is world literature. The year is broken into six units based on literature with the following origins: Greco-Roman, Asia, Middle East, Africa/Oceania, Latin America, and Europe. In addition to reading and analyzing a variety of literary selections, students will also write essays (literary analysis, personal narrative, argumentative, and expository), complete individual and group projects, and improve upon their grammar and vocabulary.

**II. Course Reading Selections:**

The main English II resource includes Glencoe’s *Word Literature*. Additionally, students will read several novels. As there is some choice in what we read, the novels listed are merely possible reading selections: *Gilgamesh, Antigone, Kite Runner, Things Fall Apart, A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, Chronicle of a Death Foretold, The Alchemist, Frankenstein, The Prince, Don Quixote,* and/or *The Importance of Being Ernest.*

**IV. Classroom Policies and Procedures:**

Success in this class requires students to:

**Be Respectful**—Students are expected to respect others and themselves. This means that students are not only expected to be open-minded to the answers and ideas of others, but should also respect themselves enough to take advantage of their learning opportunities.

**Be Prepared**—Students should come to class prepared to learn. Thus, students should have the basic supplies that they need. In addition, students should be prepared for presentations, assessments, or other class activities.

**Participate**—Students who participate not only reinforce their own learning, but also help the teacher know whether to move forward with the lesson, or review a concept that is confusing. Don’t just smile and nod! If something isn’t clear, let the teacher know.

**Be Honest**—When students cheat they cheat themselves. It never fails that students who cheat on tests and quizzes to earn an easy “A”, end up doing poorly on those concepts when they take district and state assessments. Instead of cheating, students should take advantage of classroom reviews, tutoring options, or any other extra help offered by the teacher.

**District Grade Breakdown:**

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

**“We’re All Human” Policy:** Everyone makes mistakes. We forget due dates, leave homework on the kitchen table, or simply have bad days. Therefore, the lowest homework grade in a quarter will automatically be dropped for all students. \**Note*: if students have received good grades on all homework assignments, they will receive bonus points at the end of the quarter (instead of having a grade dropped). Additionally, students who perform poorly on tests and quizzes will be allowed to correct their errors. Quizzes can be retaken (note – quiz will likely be different) for full credit; tests can be corrected for partial credit. Midterms and final exams cannot be corrected.

**\*Note:** Students who choose to correct their tests and quizzes:

- have one week from the day they receive their grade on the assignment to revise their tests and quizzes, and

- must correct their work individually at an arranged time (not during class).

**Late Work Policy:** It is not fair for students who submit work late (thus allowing themselves extra time to complete the assignment) to receive the same grade as students who submit their work on time; therefore, students are expected to adhere to due dates. Late work will be accepted within the quarter it was assigned, but students can expect their late work grade to be reduced based on how late it is (unless the work is late because of a verified family emergency).

*Work submitted:*

* + Within the week it’s due: 10% reduction
  + After one week: 20% reduction
  + After two weeks: 30% reduction
  + After three weeks and until the final submission date of each quarter: 50% reduction

**Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will be offered throughout the semester. These opportunities cannot be requested by students or parents, but will be offered at the teacher’s discretion to all students. Extra credit assignments will align with the Core Curriculum State Standards to advance student learning.

**A Little About Mrs. Watson:**

I’m an Army-brat. I spent my elementary years in Fairbanks, and told my parents when we left that I didn’t know where they’d end up, but one day I’d move back to Alaska. They beat me back to Alaska by about 15 years, but once my husband finished his schooling in Atlanta, we moved back, too.

I graduated with English Honors from Mercer University in Georgia. I had both an academic and an athletic scholarship (cross-country) while attending Mercer. Later, I earned a Masters of Education from Georgia Southern University.

This is my 15th year teaching. I taught high school English in the Atlanta area for 8 years, and more recently, 7th and 8th grade English at Clark Middle School for 5 years. I also taught 10th and 12th grade here at South last year. I’ve taught everything from test intervention courses to AP Literature.

Personally, I’ve been married for 17 years. My husband and I have an almost three-year-old daughter. I love to hike, fish, and (of course) read.

I look forward to having you in my class this year. My hope is that you enjoy this class, and that you leave having gained new insight into the world and humanity.