



English I honors



Course Description

Welcome to English 1 Honors with Mr. Benton! The purpose of this course is to provide relevant, rigorous, instruction in English language skills including reading, writing, observing, and communicating creatively in the content areas of literature and language. Visit corestandards.org for more information on the English standards being covered in Florida this year.

Students enrolled in this class will:

- construct meaning from a range of rigorous texts (literary and informative)
- use process writing to communicate complex ideas in a precise, organized, fluent manner
- respond critically and aesthetically to a variety of literary forms
- use language skills for effective written, visual, and oral communication
- foster an ever-growing vocabulary through reading, word study, and discussion
- emerge prepared with the necessary literacy skills for future advanced courses and college

Classroom Policies

Make-up Work

In the case of a student's absence, it is completely the student's responsibility to obtain any and all materials and information delivered in class during the period of the absence. If a quiz was missed, the student has a maximum of five school days during which to make it up before the quiz grade is permanently a zero. As classtime often does not provide the necessary time for a student to make up a quiz (or receive one-on-one instruction in the case of an absence), the student may need to set up with Mr. Benton a time to meet before or after school in order to do so. A student's first resource in the case of an absence is the class agenda board (which is updated with the following week's schedule every Friday in the classroom and on bentonenglish.com). Downloadable handouts are also available from the class website. It should be noted that multiple absences in a class can remove a student's ability to exempt any/all semester exams.

Late Work

Assignments that are turned in one school day late will always receive a 50%-off penalty. Work that is turned in over one school day late will always receive a 0%. This policy is strictly enforced. The exceptions to this rule are some long-term assignments (e.g. journals, papers) for which 15-40% (the percentage steadily increases throughout the year at Mr. Benton's discretion) will be deducted for each late day. It should be noted that all long-term assignments such as journals and papers must be turned in on the due date regardless of whether or not a student is present.

Academic Honesty

Mr. Benton's definition of "cheating" is very broad. Students are expected to complete all assignments without the assistance of others unless Mr. Benton explicitly allows written permission for collaboration on a specific assignment. Sharing work, using another's work for reference, "just trying to help", or using any other human's ideas without specifically citing the source will result in a grade of 0% on the assignment and a referral to administration for cheating. Student should report to tutoring instead of resorting to neutering their grades.

Grade Monitoring

A student's grades are visible online through Pinellas County's Focus interface at focus.pcsb.org. (Focus is also referred to by many with its previous name, "Portal".) It is the student's responsibility to keep a close eye on his or her grades in this class. Most assignments will be entered into the gradebook within a week. Some long-term assignments (including but not limited to journals and papers) may take longer to return due to necessary grading time.

Tutoring Availability

Mr. Benton is available for after-school tutoring throughout the week upon request; however, all Monday afternoons are set aside specifically for freshmen tutoring in English 1 Honors; tutoring begins at 1:45 and continues through 2:30. Students are expected to self-monitor their progress throughout the year in order to avoid unfortunate autopsies once a grading period is about to come to a close. Students: *If you start to feel that you are falling behind in this class, act immediately! I'm here to help.*

Hall Passes

Students are allowed up to three hall passes for every six week grading period. Students may use those hall passes at times of their own choosing (except for the very beginning or end of class, per SPHS rules). Unused hall passes will be converted into bonus points that will slightly boost that student's grade at the very end of each grading period. Once the three passes have been used by the student, he or she will not be permitted to leave class for any reason.

Computer Access

Throughout the school year, students will be required to type up several journals and papers and submit some assignments via Turnitin.com. If a computer is not available at home, computers and internet access will be available before and after school in the SPHS Library and in Mr. Benton's classroom upon request.

Electronic Devices

SPHS's policies explicitly disallow the use of electronic devices on campus (with the exception of lunchtime). Mr. Benton utilizes an aquatic deterrent to reinforce this school policy in his classroom; if a student chooses to use an electronic device in Mr. Benton's classroom, said electronic device will be compulsorily moistened. This policy plainly puts the dryness of all illicitly used devices at risk. Chronic illicit use of electronic devices will lead to referrals and confiscation of the device by campus security or administration.

Necessary Supplies

Students must come to class prepared every day. Lack of materials can result in an unfortunate and completely avoidable loss of points on classwork and homework grades. Necessary supplies include the following:

- Composition book
- Notebook paper
- Blue or black pens
- Assigned reading (see next page)
- Highlighters
- Folder to store handouts, notes, etc.
- Blank printer paper
- Colored pencils or markers

English 1 Honors Assigned Readings

Students will need to obtain a copy of each literary text that we will be covering throughout the school year. If obtaining a book proves difficult, please see Mr. Benton outside of classtime. The five texts that students will need throughout the school year are listed below:



Great Expectations

Title: ***Great Expectations***

Author: **Charles Dickens**

This Victorian novel is needed by early September.



ANIMAL FARM

Title: ***Animal Farm***

Author: **George Orwell**

This satirical novella is needed by mid-November.



Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Title: ***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***

Translator: **Burton Raffel**

This book is available in several different translations; however, the required version is the translation by Burton Raffel.

This medieval poem is needed by mid-December.



Romeo and Juliet

Title: ***Romeo and Juliet***

Author: **William Shakespeare**

Any edition of the play is acceptable as long it contains the original text and not only a simplification.

This classic play is needed by mid-January.



To Kill a Mockingbird

Title: ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

Author: **Harper Lee**

This American novel is needed by late April.

BentonEnglish.com

Visit the class website (bentonenglish.com) often for the weekly class agenda, downloadable versions of handouts and assignments, digital audio and text versions of assigned reading, and other useful info and links. This site is for parents as well as students! When contacting Mr. Benton by email (at bentonro@pcsb.org) or through the website, please provide your name and period in the subject area of the e-mail so it is easier to quickly identify you.

Wish List

There are some supplies that are needed for the classroom that are not supplied by the school. Some of these needs are:

- Disinfecting wipes
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Paper towels
 - 5-Hour Energy Shots
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Tips for a Great Year ...

- Do not allow assignments to pass you by. *Everything* counts!
- Don't be absent. Missing class will seriously affect your grade. Vacations and appointments need to be planned around your school schedule. If you wake up and don't feel well – come to school anyway! Unless you are in the hospital, vomiting, or have a high fever – you need to *be here*.
- Find a way to *get involved*. It will make a big difference in the type of college you get into and the scholarships you could earn. It will also make a huge difference in how much you enjoy school. Colleges are moving away from students who are involved in a million things to students who started their freshmen year in a club, organization, or sport and continued all the way through. Do not put this off because it will affect your future.
- When it comes time to apply for college, *ninth grade counts* on your transcripts. If you don't like a subject or a teacher – you need to tough it out! That's no reason to ruin your own future. Seniors say over and over again that their future changed because of what they chose *not* to do their freshmen year.
- Get to know your *guidance counselor*, and make sure they know who you are! This person will be filling out recommendation forms for you when college applications roll around.
- Middle school is *over*. Now you have more freedom and more choices. No one holds your hand anymore. Blowing off assignments could cause you to fail. Colleges are *very* interested in your overall GPA, so every class is important. Enjoy your new freedom, but realize that you also have new responsibilities.
- Email your teachers. Many of your teachers are very quick to respond to questions and significantly more merciful when approached by email.

Student Name: _____

Period: _____



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After reading the syllabus, please sign, complete, detach, and return this page by **Wednesday** (August 21st) or – if you’re entering the course later in the year – two school days after receiving this syllabus packet. Please keep the rest of the syllabus in your English folder until the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

Syllabus Agreement

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand, and fully submit to, personally agree with, and shall willfully comply with all of the policies, rules, requirements, expectations, and consequences covered throughout this syllabus for Mr. Benton’s English I Honors course.

Student’s Signature: _____

Parent’s Signature: _____

Teacher’s Signature: _____

Parent Info (please fill in all that apply)

Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Daytime phone: () - -

Evening phone: () - -

Email address:

.....

Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Daytime phone: () - -

Evening phone: () - -

Email address:

(If more space is needed for more parental contacts, please attach additional sheets.)

Student Info

Your email:

Your phone:

() - -

What school did you attend last year?

What was the name of your English/Language Arts teacher in 8th grade?

Do you have reliable access to a computer at home?

Do you have reliable access to the internet at home?

Are there any clubs or teams that you are currently part of or considering joining at SPHS?

Why are you enrolled in an Honors English class?

What do you hope to get out of this class (*aside from* a high grade)?

What is your biggest motivation to do well in high school?

Let me know one thing about yourself that someone would never know just by looking at you: