



English I honors



Course Description

Welcome to English 1 Honors with Mr. Benton! The purpose of this course is to provide students, using texts of high complexity, advanced integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness. In an honors class, academic rigor is more than simply a teacher assigning students a greater quantity of reading or work. Through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted, English 1 Honors students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning.

Students enrolled in this class will regularly:

- actively read a variety of grade-appropriate texts for what they say explicitly, as well as logical inferences that can be drawn from them
- analyze literature and informational texts from a variety of literary periods to examine text craft and structure; elements of literature; arguments and claims supported by textual evidence; the power and impact of language; the influence of history, culture, and setting on language; and personal, critical, and aesthetic response.
- write for a variety purposes including developing and supporting argumentative claims; crafting coherent, supported informative/expository texts; responding to literature for personal and analytical purposes; writing narratives to develop real or imagined events; and writing to sources using text-based evidence and reasoning.
- practice effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies with an emphasis on the use of evidence to support or refute a claim in multimedia presentations, class discussions, and extended text discussions
- collaborate amongst their peers

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. Students should report to tutoring instead of resorting to academic immorality.

Grade Monitoring

A student's grades are visible online through Pinellas County's Focus interface at focus.pcsb.org. 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 essays) 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; a particular day of the week dedicated to specific issues of this class will be announced and posted in the classroom after the first week of school. Tutoring typically begins at 1:45 and continues through 2:30. Students are expected (and parents are highly encouraged) to self-monitor their progress via [Focus](#) 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.*

Computer Access

Throughout the school year, students will be required to type several formal journal responses, analytical essays, and other assignments for either online submission or as a physical hardcopy. If an internet-connected computer is not available at home, computers and internet access will be available before and after school in the SPHS Media center 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 during lunch). 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, confiscation of the device by campus security or administration, and potential loss of classwork points.

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:

- one composition book
- plenty of notebook paper
- several blue or black pens
- currently assigned reading (see next page)
- 3 different colors of highlighters
- a way to reliably store handouts, notes, etc.
- several sheets of blank printer paper
- 5 or more 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 for a lender copy. 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 early November.



Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Title: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Translator: **Burton Raffel**

Originally written in Middle English, this book is available in several different translations; however, the required version is the translation by Burton Raffel.

This medieval poem is needed by late 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 mid-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 and better address your specific needs

Wish List

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

- Canon #245 print cartridges
 - 5-Hour Energy Shots
 - disinfecting wipes
 - hand sanitizer
 - paper towels
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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 will be significantly more merciful when approached by email.

Student Name: _____

Period: _____



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After fully reading the syllabus, please sign, complete, detach, and return this page by the due date posted on the agenda board 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 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: () - - (if different)

Email address:

.....

Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Daytime phone: () - -

Evening phone: () - - (if different)

Email address:

(If more space is needed for more family 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: