

English 2 Honors



Course Description

Welcome to English 2 Honors with Mr. Benton! 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 2 Honors students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning. Engaged students will emerge from this course prepared to succeed in AP English Language or English 3 Honors.

This course focuses on the close reading and careful analysis of complex literary and informational texts, and the compositional process. Students develop skills in reading analytically, speaking and listening, language, and composition. Emphasis is placed on key ideas and details, author's craft and structure, integration of knowledge and ideas, the range of reading and level of text complexity, vocabulary development, student research, and the process and production of various modes of writing.

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

Expectations

I expect you to come to class on time and prepared. You must bring completed assignments and all the necessary materials to every class meeting. I also expect you to be mentally present. This means you are demonstrating knowledge of the text, contributing to class activities, actively listening to others, and taking intellectual risks. You must always be respectful to the ideas expressed during this course, even if they conflict with your personal beliefs.

Absences

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 me 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 receive a 0%. The exceptions to this rule are some long-term assignments for which 15-40% (the percentage steadily increases throughout the year at teacher's discretion) will be deducted for each late day. In the case of extenuating circumstances (illness, personal problems, etc.), please come speak with me privately so we can determine the appropriate course of action.

Academic Honesty

My definition of "cheating" is very broad. Students are expected to complete all assignments without the assistance of others unless I 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.

Written Assignments

All work must be written in black or blue ink on college-ruled paper. Please double-space your writing and use the front side of the page only. When specified, you may type out-of-class assignments. Typed work should be in this format: double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced lines, and numbered pages.

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 my classroom upon request.

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 college-ruled composition book
- plenty of notebook paper
- several blue or black pens
- currently assigned reading
- Post-it flags of 3 or more colors
- 4 different colors of highlighters
- a way to reliably store handouts, notes, etc.
- 5 or more colored pencils or markers
- a pad of small Post-it note
- a Google account

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 me 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. We'll also make use of the Remind messaging system this year; you'll hear more about it in class soon.

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 & 246 print cartridges
 - 5-Hour Energy Shots
 - disinfecting wipes
 - hand sanitizer
 - paper towels
 - hand soap
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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 early on 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 as an underclassman.
- 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.
- Communicate with your teachers. Email, Remind message, stop by: many of your teachers are very eager to respond to questions and will be significantly more merciful when approached one-on-one.

Student Name: _____

English 2 Honors

Class Period: _____

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 2 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?

Who was your English/Language Arts teacher in last year?

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 English 2 Honors?

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?

What is one thing about yourself that someone would never know just by looking at you?