**English**

**Expectations, Policies, and Notes**

**Welcome to English!** This class offers students the opportunity to develop as readers, writers, and thinkers through the investigation of cultural, racial, social, and political issues. This course will give students the opportunity to really find themselves through literature. Through reading, writing, investigating, and presenting, students will broaden their own thinking and enrich the way they see themselves. We have much to accomplish this year to prepare you to succeed in high school, college, and beyond. This document describes what is expected of you and what you can expect from this class.

**EXPECTATIONS**

**Standards of Conduct:** Your success in this class requires that you meet high academic expectations, but it also demands that you meet high standards for behavior and conduct. You will meet three standards of conduct in this class:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Standard:** | **What this looks like:** |
| **Be Respectful**  | • Enter the room quickly and silently and go directly to your seat.• Begin the Do Now / Reading immediately.• Be aware of your classmates at all times. • Respect class time – be on task every time. |
| **Be Responsible** | • Be in your seat and ready to learn by the time class starts.• Bring all supplies every day: pen/pencil; homework; book; laptop; binder• Have all assignments printed / stapled **in advance** of due date.• Work on class work during class time. |
| **Be Safe** | • Keep your hands and feet to yourself at all times.• All parts of the chair legs on the floor at all times.• Respecting class time as time for working and learning for all students.* No derogatory or disrespectful comments.
 |

**• Two more things for success in this class:**

1. Following the school rule of dress code is mandatory in my classroom. If you are not in dress code, you are not ready to learn.
2. Your cell phone / iPod / electronic device does not belong in my classroom – keep it in your locker. If I see it or hear it (whether you’re using it or not) I will take it for the day.

**• Consequences:**

Appropriate behavior is always your choice. It is my expectation that you will always behave appropriately. If, however, you choose not to follow these standards, you can expect there will be consequences\*.

Consequence 1: Verbal Warning || Consequence 2: Detention & Phone Call / Email Home

**POLICIES**

**• Attendance:**

If you miss class, prepare to stay after school sometime that week to make up what you missed. It’s important that you take that step yourself – you’re in high school! Be accountable for your own learning.

**• Homework:**

It is your responsibility to remember the homework and turn it in within the first 10 minutes of class. If you do not write it down, it is your responsibility to get the assignment from **a classmate**. Homework deadlines are non-negotiable; homework is to be turned in the day it is due. Any point after that deadline, all turned in work will be (at most) half credit.

**• Grading:**

Your grade will reflect your ability to meet the standards associated with English. Grades will be broken down into the standard percentages permitted for letter grades.

(90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, anything less than 60=F)

**Plagiarism:**

*Additionally, your work will be your own. Cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes plagiarism,* ***taking another’s work for your own****, and this is a major infraction. Plagiarism includes taking* ***work from the internet, books, or your fellow classmates****. Cases of cheating and plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment and a conference with your guardian. After that conference, you will be expected to make up the assignment in detention. You may not be eligible for credit for the* ***course*** *if the plagiarism continues.*

**Getting Help:**

It is my expectation that you will see me if you need help or further explanation of class material. There are three ways you can get extra help:

1. **After School:** I normally stay after school Wednesdays until about 3:30pm. You are welcome to stop by my room to ask questions or receive help. Please let me know if you plan on coming.

2. **Email:** My email address Chelsea.Usher@hartfordschools.org. When writing an email, keep in mind that I will not reply to any that contain inappropriate comments, words, or phrases.

3. **Portal:** There is a discussion board that alerts me if there are questions about the work. Post there and I will reply to you.

I will be holding open office hours on Wednesdays from 2:30- 3:30 PM. If you’d like to meet with me, please email me, or see me before or after class to make an appointment.

**PROCEDURES**

**• If You Are Late:**

You **must** have a note from the teacher or administrator that held you. Otherwise, you will lose your participation points for the day.

**• Leaving the Room:**

No one is allowed to leave the room within the first and last 15 minutes of the block. No exceptions. A pass is required to leave and enter my room any other time. **If you need to leave the room at any time, you are to wait until it is appropriate to ask to leave (not in the middle of a lesson, instead, wait until solo work).**

**•Ending Class:**

The clock doesn’t dismiss you, I do. **(this happens to be one of my favorite sayings during the school year)** You will continue working throughout the period until I let you know it is time to pack up. At that time, you may put away your supplies. You may leave when I have dismissed you. If you choose to pack up early, you will be asked to stay late.