**Honors English I – Syllabus Fall 2013**

**Ms. Karen Harker**

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**Teacher Website:** [**http://harkerpride.weebly.com**](http://harkerpride.weebly.com)

**Course Overview:** English I is focused on teaching basic writing, grammar, vocabulary, and literary skills need to succeed in high school and beyond. The literature chosen for this course encompasses a variety of literary genres from various time periods and cultures around the world. The assignments given and readings assigned are all a part of the Common Core curriculum.

**What I Offer You:**

* Respect, the right to dignity, and the opportunity to learn
* Knowledge of research techniques, grammar and usage, composition, language, literary history, and British, American, and world literature
* Maximum effort to support your success in and out of class.
* Availability before, during, and after school for students with questions or students that need extra help.
* A comfortable, safe learning environment

**What I Expect of You:**

* Respect and the right to dignity
* Support ALL of your classmates’ learning
* Work your hardest and stay organized
* Carry yourself and behave as a young adult
* Ask questions!
* Think, Imagine, Explore, and Learn!

**Rules:**

* Come to class on time.
* Drinks will be allowed in class as long as they have a lid. Food is not allowed unless needed for medical reasons.
* Follow the dress code.
* **Cell phone use of any kind is not allowed.**
* Stay on task for the entire class period. Talking should not occur unless given permission. Personal conversations are to be had elsewhere. Cell phone use of any kind is not allowed.
* Under no circumstances should a student use profanity, rasict, homophobic, or other derogatory language. As you may be allowed to use this type of language elsewhere, it is not acceptable in a learning environment.
* Always treat Ms. Harker and your classmates with respect and dignity. Teasing, picking on students, and distracting students who are working is not allowed.

**Consequences:**

* Verbal warning
* Phone call to parent or guardian
* Call to administration
* Written referral

Please note that these are generally the order of the consequences when there is unacceptable behavior. However, the teacher reserves the right to change/reorder consequences when necessary.

**Literature we will read:**

* *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
* *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
* *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
* *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
* Excerpts from *The Odyssey* by Homer
* Selected short stories
* Selected poetry
* Selected non-fiction/US seminal documents

**Grading:**

Homework/Classwork/Class Participation – 15%

Minor Assessments – 35%

Major Assessments – 50%

**Final Exam:**

The final exam for all English I classes will be a state-made MSL (Measure of Student Learning). This test will encompass reading comprehension, understanding of literary concepts, grammar competency, and writing ability. The final exam will count as 20% of your final grade in English I.

**Late Work:**

Homework:

* Homework that is collected and reviewed by teacher (e.g short writing, pre-writing for an essay, etc.) will be accepted up to two days late for excused absences only.

Classwork:

* Students present in class when class work is assigned and do not complete it will receive a zero
* Students with excused absences obtain it when they return to class and complete it in the allotted make-up period
* UNEXCUSED absences will be able to make up class work; however, they will only receive may only earn up to 70% of the grade

Papers/Projects:

* Students absent on the day a paper/project is due are required to turn it in on the day return to class
* If a project is late due to an UNEXCUSED absence you will be penalized 10% each day it is late.
* If you are present in class on the day a paper/project is due, but you do not have it, it will be accepted late, but penalized 10% for each day it is late.

Tests/Quizzes:

* The STUDENT should schedule make-up within one week of the date it was administered
* For missed quizzes/tests, due to UNEXCUSED absences, students may only earn up to 70% of the grade

***The student will be responsible for scheduling make up times with me. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the assignment.***

**Paper Guidelines:**

Papers will be collected at the BEGINNING of class. Any papers that are turned in after that will receive a ten point deduction for each day it is late. **Papers will only be accepted as printed hard copies, unless extenuating circumstances are present.** Students should follow the guidelines below for all papers submitted.

* Double spaced
* One-inch margins
* Times New Roman 11 or 12 pt. font
* Name, date, and class period at the top, left-hand corner.
* Stapled – no paperclips, binder clips, or folders please!

**Plagiarism:** DO NOT PLAGARIZE! Cases of plagiarism will be handled on a case by case basis. If a student is caught plagiarizing, his/her parent and guidance counselor will be contacted. Additionally, the student will have to redo the assignment for only 70% of the earned grade. Failure to redo the assignment will result in a zero.

**I am so excited to have the opportunity to teach Honors English I this semester! I am doing my best to plan lessons that both engage students and teach the curriculum. In order to have a successful semester, students will need to come to class prepared to READ and WRITE every day! This includes completing any assigned reading outside of class. Please don’t ever hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding my class!**