

Mr. Patrick Garcia-Smith
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English 11 Classroom Standards & Course Description

Materials:

Due to the fast-paced nature of the block schedule it is imperative that students come prepared to work every day. In order for students to be successful in this course students are expected to **bring the following items with them to class each day:**

- Loose-leaf binder paper
- Composition Notebook (not spiral-bound)
- a folder or binder, used only for English 11 paperwork (with all needed paperwork inside)
- a black pen, a blue pen, and a red pen
- a pencil
- Sticky notes (3 inch x 3 inch)
- a green, a pink highlighter, and a yellow highlighter

At home, or wherever you will complete your homework, you should have the following to ensure success in this class:

- Dictionary (or an app on your phone!)
- Computer access: many assignments will require typing. Please be aware that if you do have computer access at home you will need to make arrangements to use school computers on a regular basis (e.g. the library computer lab)
- A comfortable, well-lit and quiet place to read and complete your assignments (hint: listening to classical music or instrumentals on your ipod or phone can help mask outside noise and help you focus).

You can plan on approximately 30 minutes of “homework” every night Monday through Thursday. It is the student’s responsibility to plan accordingly. At times, homework may exceed 30 minutes, and at other times, homework may take less than 30 minutes but you will always been given time in class to begin your work. Students should plan accordingly to make sure they have enough time to complete all homework assignments.

Plan to complete reading/annotations at home on a daily basis. Do not get behind on your reading, or you will not be able to participate in class activities and will lose further points.

Tests, quizzes, projects and essays are given at regular intervals through the course. Late and Make-Up work will be accepted up but students must directly speak with me prior to submitting the assignment. For students who are absent, they may take a look at Google Classroom through School Loop in order to see what they have missed and then pick up that day’s assignments in the back of the classroom once they return to school.

Grading Policy: All grades are accessible online through AERIES. The grading scale is as follows:

100%-90%:	A
89%-80%:	B
79%-70%:	C
69%-60%:	D
< 59%:	F

Be aware that in order to receive the college prep designation on your transcripts you must have at least a 70% in the class.

All grades will be weighted as follows:

Classwork/ Homework/ Projects	40%
Tests/ Quizzes/ Performance Tasks	30%
Essays	30%

Units of study will follow the Common Core Standards and course of study created by the English Department at RCHS. We will complete StudySync (McGraw Hill) units and units around novels/ plays (pacing subject to change):

Week	Unit
1-4	Study Sync Unit 1: We the People
5-6	<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller
7-10	Study Sync Unit 2: The Individual
11	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> by Lorraine Hansberry
12-14	Study Sync Unit 3: Modern Times
15-17	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald
18	Finals

- Students will also compose no fewer than three formal essays, typed in MLA format. In addition, students will study a variety of vocabulary and grammar/ usage during the their time in this class.
- Essays will be graded on a rubric in lieu of written comments. Research, and personal experience as an English teacher with six years in the classroom, suggests that verbal feedback is more useful to students than hand-writing commentary. Students will have the opportunity to schedule an appointment with Mr. Garcia-Smith during his 4th period prep or after school to receive verbal, personalized feedback on their essays. **If they attend this feedback session, they will have the opportunity to rewrite/ resubmit their essay for a higher grade.**

Tardy & Absence Policy:

The Tardy and Absence policy follows the policies enforced by River City High School administration. Any student more than **30** minutes late will be considered absent. **The consequences below are not “per class period.” (example: a student tardy to 1st period twice and 2nd period once will be on the ‘third violation’).**

- 1st violation: auto-dialer calls home.
- 2nd violation: auto-dialer calls home, student is given detention.
- 3rd violation: auto dialer calls home, student is given detention, and administration calls home.
- 4th violation: auto dialer calls home, student is given detention, administration calls home, and parent conference is scheduled.
- 6th violation: auto dialer calls home, student is given detention, administration calls home, parent conference is scheduled, and student loses activity privileges.
- 9th violation: auto dialer calls home, student is given detention, administration calls home, and parent conference is scheduled, student loses activity privileges, loses parking permit, and loses senior activities.

Any **unexcused absence/ tardy** will result in student forfeiting the right to make-up missed work and/or take any missed tests. **Parents/guardians must call to excuse all student absences and tardies.**

Late Work Policy:

Students are responsible for obtaining all missed work when absent for excused reasons. **Students should check the class' Materials Folder, located in the back of the room, to obtain handouts and read the class agenda and objectives for days missed.** Students can also check Mr. Garcia-Smith's Google Classroom page through School Loop to download electronic copies of work missed. Students should also check in with the teacher before or after class for further explanation of lessons/work missed. **Students can only submit late work for current units of study. For example, a student cannot submit late work for Unit #1 if the class is currently working on Unit #2.** Students who choose not to turn in an assignment will receive an "F" for that specific assignment.

In most cases regarding our StudySync material, late work will only be accepted for one additional day after the original due date. Assignments turned in late (except for excused absences) will lose up to a whole letter grade of the original point value. Students must make arrangements with the teacher to make-up tests and quizzes. Class time may not be used for make-ups. Incomplete or poorly completed assignments will receive fewer points at the teacher's discretion. Speak with teacher if special circumstances occur.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Students are expected, and will be held to the standard that they do their own work. Cheating will not be tolerated under any circumstances. **Cheating includes copying another student's work. Both the student who copied and the student who allowed the other student to copy their work will be penalized.**

- 1st Offense: F on the assignment, parent notification
- 2nd Offense: F on the assignment, parent notification, referral to administration.
- 3rd Offense: F in class for that quarter, parent/student/teacher/administrator conference, and removal from all extracurricular activities.

In addition to submitting a paper copy of essays, student must also upload their essay to the turnitin.com website. This essay checks for plagiarism. If an essay is not submitted to turnitin.com, it will not be graded until student has done so.

Discipline Policy:

Refer to the student agenda regarding behavior guidelines, cell phones, non-allowed items, and student dress code.

- Students are expected to respect themselves, other students, the teacher, and the classroom and its contents at all times.
- Cell phones and non-allowed items must be kept turned off and out of sight (unless given special permission for use by Mr. Garcia-Smith for educational purposes). Any student found with a cell phone or non-allowed item out of his/her backpack without permission will have it confiscated and the teacher will follow school policy regarding discipline.
- Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to, talking out of turn, sleeping, talking back to and/or arguing with the teacher, disrespectful behavior towards other students or teacher, profanity and/or derogatory language, inappropriate use or abuse of classroom materials, and inappropriate use of classroom time.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ verbal warning | ✓ Call home |
| ✓ change of seat | ✓ After school detention |
| ✓ referral | |

The consequence depends on type of behavior and frequency of occurrence.
The teacher reserves the right to alter the consequence policy when necessary.

Google Classroom: Mr. Garcia-Smith' Google Classroom page through School Loop page is a valuable resource for the class. The syllabus, helpful documents and links, and all assignments will be posted on her English 11 page. Also, any electronic worksheets or documents can be accessed here. Use this resource to your advantage!

Students: please review the classroom standards and course description with your parent/guardian. Next, please fill out the information sheet attached and have your parent/guardian complete the back of the form addressed to them. **Please return the student information sheet with your parent/guardian signature and information tomorrow.**

Thank you in advance for your hard work and cooperation. I'm looking forward to a wonderful term.

Mr. Garcia-Smith

Please take time to review the syllabus together. The following is a Statement of Understanding to be signed by both student and parent. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Statement of Understanding

I have read the attached syllabus for Mr. Garcia's English class, understand the contents, and agree to adhere to the guidelines. Please return this sheet by Friday, August 18th, 2017.

(student signature)

(date)

(print student name)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the course.

****También hablo español si lo prefiere.***

(parent signature)

(date)

(print parent name)

***parent/guardian contact phone number:** _____

****parent/guardian email to receive classroom news, updates, and other correspondence:**

Comments/concerns for the teacher: