

# Adv. Honors English I: 2018–2019 Syllabus

## Course Description

Advanced Honors English I will engage students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. It is designed to help students move beyond the five-paragraph essay by placing emphasis on content, purpose, and audience and to allow their focus to guide the organization of their writing. The overarching objective is to enable students to write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum and in their professional communication.

Almost all required reading for the class will be done outside of class. The usual routine for the class is to read, analyze, and write. Students will improve their vocabulary skills primarily through words taken from SAT tests. Since the AP exam focuses on novels, plays, and poetry, the curriculum is structured heavily around these three genres. There will also be significant attention paid to the traditional freshman English curriculum.

**This is an in-depth, accelerated English course with high performance standards. This course includes independent completion of comprehensive projects and extensive outside reading. Advanced Honors English courses prepare students for AP English classes.**

## Assigned Textbooks

I will assign the following textbook for you to use throughout the year. I will let you know which book(s) to bring each day. Stay organized, pay attention, and check the website regularly. I expect you to bring the correct textbook or novel to class each day.

- *Holt McDougal Literature: Grade 9*. Austin: Houghton, 2012.  
Online textbook: my.hrw.com  
username: barhamcms  
password: n6u4w
- *Elements of Language, Third Course*. Austin: Holt, 2011.  
We will use a class set of this textbook, as well as an online copy. You will not be required to bring a copy to class.

## Mr. Chip Barham

Room 203

Central Magnet School  
701 East Main Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

barhamc@rcschools.net

www.mrbarham.com

## Mr. Barham's Daily Schedule

1st: Adv. Honors English I

2nd: PLANNING

3rd: Adv. Honors English I

4th: Adv. Honors English I

5th: Directed Studies

6th: Adv. Honors English I

7th S1: Honors Shakespeare

7th S2: Hon. Modern Literature

## Important Dates:

PSAT Payment Due:

PSAT Test Date:

Class Midterm:

Final Exam/EOC:

## Supplies

Be sure that you have the following materials with you every day in class:

- pencil and/or black ink pen (or dark blue)
- college-ruled paper
- red ink pen and yellow highlighter (needed occasionally)

You may also benefit from bringing a pocket dictionary and/or thesaurus for any in-class writing; however, you will **need** access to a good dictionary for vocabulary homework.

## Computer and Printer Access

You will be required at times to use a computer, the internet, and a printer to complete some assignments. You are responsible for finding access as needed at home, school, or a library, but keep a couple of rules in mind regarding printed assignments:

1. Do not turn in work via email, a flash drive, or disc when it's supposed to be printed out.
2. Do not ask to print out an assignment just before class or while I am teaching another class.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class, and **computer or printer problems are not acceptable excuses for late work.**

## Outside Reading

In addition to readings from our textbooks, we will also be reading the following books this year. You can check out or borrow the following (although I always recommend you buy your own so you can mark your own notes in the margins). I will always give a couple of weeks' notice before we start a new novel, so you will have time to get your copy.

*Mythology*  
by Edith Hamilton

*The Odyssey* by Homer, translated by Robert Fagles

\**To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

\**Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

\*I will have enough copies of these to check out to students who do not obtain their own copies.

## Heading Your Paper

Always head your paper using the following format:

**Name**

**Mr. Barham**

**AH English I: Period**

**Date (format 9 Aug. 2017)**

For informal homework and classwork assignments, the heading goes in the **upper right-hand corner**. For formal, typed assignments, we will follow MLA format, which will be explained on a different handout.

Center the title of the assignment at the top of the page following this heading.

Use the correct format for every assignment.

## Organization

Your ability to keep your work organized is crucial to your success in this class. Although I do not require a specific method of organization, I require you to be able to efficiently find what you need when you need it.

I often recommend a three-ring binder with pockets and dividers to help you organize your materials for class.

## Basic Classroom Rules

1. **Be punctual:** In accordance to the Student Handbook, I will cite you for every tardy to class. Also, you will often have assignments due at the beginning of class or a task on the board to complete at the beginning of class. You need to have everything you need out and ready to go when the bell rings.
2. **Be alert/attentive/involved:** For you to be successful in anything, you must be involved in what you're doing. When we are reading in class, I expect you to keep up. When I ask you a question during a discussion, I expect you to know what we're discussing.
3. **Be prepared:** Always have with you what you need, when you need it. Homework is to be completed before class time.
4. **Be respectful:** Show respect to everyone in the classroom— student or adult. There is never a reason to be disrespectful. Especially in a class like this where we will read, hear, and discuss divergent opinions and perspectives, we must all be able to disagree with decorum. In other words, treat others the way you want to be treated.

Of course, we will also follow all school rules outlined in the student handbook.

## Other Classroom Etiquette

**Regarding food and drink.** No food or drink is allowed in class. Water in a clear water bottle is the only exception.

**While I am speaking...** When I am speaking to the class as a whole, do not get up to throw away trash, to sharpen your pencil, or for any other reason except an emergency. You need to be listening.

**Regarding grooming.** Basic grooming (doing your hair, makeup, etc.) needs to be done between classes, not during class. Also, do not spray perfume or cologne or use overly odiferous lotions. Just because something smells good to you doesn't mean it smells good to everyone.

**Regarding Privacy** I will not rummage through your backpacks or books (without probable cause), so I ask that you respect my privacy as well. Do not read or take anything that is on or behind my desk or podium. There will be a designated stapler, hole-punch, etc. for you to use in class.

## Homework Partners

In case of absences or questions about homework, get the contact information from at least two other students in this class.

**Note:** These are not students you should **work with** on the homework. You should only be clarifying requirements of each assignment. Everyone is responsible for doing his or her own work!

**Name:**

**Phone and/or email:**

**Name:**

**Phone and/or email:**

## Contacting Me

My planning period is 2<sup>nd</sup> period on **MTuThF** from approximately 9:00-9:45, and my school phone number is 904-6789 x 23355. The best way to reach me is through email. My email address is **barhamc@rcschools.net**

## Assignments and Grades

On most class days, you will receive at least one grade in class, ranging from minor class assignments to major test or essay grades. You can never assume that any assignment, no matter how small, is only a matter of completion. Following directions, punctuality, and comprehension are always factors in the grades you receive. Sloppy, half-completed work will be graded accordingly. Furthermore, remember that every assignment, no matter how small, can make a difference in your average. Even ONE zero on a small, easy assignment can significantly affect your average. The main point: turn in **every** assignment. It is extremely difficult to recover from a series of zeros.

Unless otherwise instructed, you may not submit your homework via email except in the rare case of an emergency. Homework must be submitted in class and on paper.

I grade on a total points system. For instance, participation or homework grades can range from 3 to 20 points each, each quiz is usually 10 to 30 points, while essays and tests can range from 40 to 100 points. Major projects such as the research paper and oral presentations will count as large test grades (100-200 points). At any given time, you can average your grade by taking the total points you've earned on assignments and dividing by the total points possible.

Because this is an advanced honors class, **3 points will be added to your average each grading period.**

## Late Work

Homework is due when I take it up, usually at the **beginning** of class. According to our school policy for late work, "Except under extraordinary circumstances, late work will not be accepted for full credit." This means that, except in the case of emergencies, late work will be penalized and, in some cases, could even receive a zero. Turn your work in on time.

With that said, I will also emphasize that I do not take it personally when you do not get your work completed. **I'm here to help you** do the best you can, so please talk to me if you are starting to miss assignments or your grade starts slipping.

## Absences

According to school policy, you will have a maximum of five days to make up assignments after an absence; however, **if a due date is assigned before your absence, your work will still be expected on the given due date.** For instance, if you have known for a week that an assignment is due on Wednesday, then you are out on Tuesday, your assignment will still be due when you return. There are exceptions to this rule, and I will always do what I deem to be fair to each situation, but the point is that you must make up your work in a reasonable amount of time. Always check with me about your due dates for make-up work.

If you are absent, you and you alone are responsible for finding out what you've missed and for making up the work. Do not ask me what you've missed on a day you were absent until you have checked the class website and contacted at least one other student. Then, if you have questions about the make-up work, come see me. **I will not track you down to make sure you get your make-up work.** If you do not turn it in within a reasonable amount of time, it will be recorded as a zero.

Most make-up quizzes and tests must be taken outside of regular class time. **To make up a test or quiz, you must schedule a time with me. Do not assume I will come to you to ask you to make up your work.**

## Field Trips and Other School-Related Absences (SRAs)

You will always know about a school-related absence ahead of time, and it is your responsibility to make plans ahead of time. Assignments due on the day of a school-related absence are to be turned in BEFORE you leave. Assignments made while you are away from school are due on your return to school. It is your responsibility to know what you missed.

## Academic Dishonesty

By this point, you should understand what plagiarism is and how serious it is. If not, I will be explaining it in full in class, and you must realize that flagrant cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. If I see you (or otherwise catch you) copying someone else's work to represent as your own, you will receive a zero on the assignment, and I will contact your parents. The same penalty will apply to those who share their work for others to copy. Academic honesty is expected and required.

## Standardized Tests

At the end of the school year, there will be statewide testing for all English I students. This test will include a writing test and an objective test, both of which will be given in late April or early May, and the scores from these tests will count as your final exam grade. Since the same test is given to all honors, advanced honors, and standard English students, there are no honors points awarded on the test. Also, because it is a state-mandated test, no one can be exempt from the test; however, students will not be required to show up for their English exam on the regular school exam date at the end of May.

One optional test that freshmen can take during the first semester is the **PSAT/NMSQT**, administered in October. This test not only helps students practice test-taking skills for college entrance exams, it can also lead to an opportunity to win the prestigious National Merit Scholarship their junior year. The cost is approximately \$15 and can be turned in starting later in August.

## Midterm and Final Exams

Everyone is required to take a midterm exam at the end of the second quarter. The midterm will count as 25% of your first semester grade.

For all freshmen, the state test (see above) will count as the final exam grade, which will count as 25% of the second semester average.

## The Year at a Glance

Below is a list of the major units and/or projects that will be covered each quarter. Throughout each quarter, there will be ongoing writing, grammar, and vocabulary instruction.

### Quarter 1

- Writing: Introductory letter, syntactic variety, writing rules
- Summer reading assessments
- Film techniques unit culminating in an in-class writing assignment
- Short story unit with reading quizzes and a comprehensive unit test

### Quarter 2

- *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton: major project/presentation due in October followed by a large unit test
- *The Odyssey* with reading quizzes and a comprehensive unit test

### Quarter 3

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* with reading quizzes and a comprehensive unit test
- Research paper: there will be progress grades, and the paper will be turned in toward the end of the quarter, but the grade for the paper itself will appear on quarter 4
- If time permits: *Great Expectations* with reading quizzes and a comprehensive unit test

### Quarter 4

- Poetry unit with close study of several poems, a 50-line memory-work presentation, and a comprehensive unit test
- *Romeo and Juliet* with occasional quizzes and a comprehensive unit test