English 9 B with Mr. Klooster

## Teacher: Toni Seyferth / Travis Klooster

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**Best time/method of contact**: \_e-mail around 8:00 P.M.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Course Description**

The purpose of English 9 B is to improve your skills in the areas of reading, writing, and speech. Through studying a variety of literature you will gain practice and understanding of how to effectively analyze literature for important messages, while making rich relevant connections to your own lives. This course will equip you with the skills to effectively write academically and purposefully in a myriad of ways and to varied audiences.

**Course Content**

* + Analytical Essay (2)
* Interpret and evaluate both fiction and nonfiction writings according to their historical, social, and cultural context
* Respond to writing selections by analysis
  + Structure, diction, point of view, syntax, voice, purpose
* Respond to writing selection by synthesis
  + Compare and contrast to other works
* Respond to writing selections by evaluation
  + Effectiveness of the piece
* Prepare documented essays, using both primary and secondary sources, on topics related to literature and/or correlating historical periods
* Use a variety of prewriting techniques to gather information and ideas
* Revise writing to improve elements
  + Word choice, presentation, content, organization, voice conventions, and sentence structure
* Increase knowledge and use of vocabulary
* Acquire and use grammar, punctuation, and usage rules
* Read literature, paying special attention to literary elements as well as relating the literature to your own lives
* Participate in class discussions by posing questions, acknowledging other’s points of view, building on them, and expressing unique opinions

Course Materials

* Blue or Black Ink Pen/Pencil/3 or more colors of highlighters
* Clasp folder or three ring binder for class notes (class notebook)
* **Loose-leaf paper** for in-class assignments
* Electronic storage device
* Netbooks
* Free reading book

Course Policies:

* Attendance: Class attendance is vital. Frequent absence will adversely impact your grade. When absent check teacher for handouts or assignments missed. Handouts are usually kept above the book pockets at the front of the room. Each unexcused absences will result in 5 points being deducted from your participation/citizenship grade.
* Tardy Policy: The schools Tardy Policy will be enforced. Each unexcused tardy will result in a deduction of 5 points from your participation/citizenship grade.
* Late Work: Late work will be accepted the week of its due date with a 20% reduction in the grade before the initial grading. Policy from handbook will be followed for students absent. Students have the number of days absent to turn in work before it is considered late. Attaching notes to late work and dating clearly is very helpful and advised. See next checkmark…
* Make-up Work: Make-up work must be completed the week of the absence or the following week in instances of a Friday absence. Extended absences will have extended deadlines. Some assignments will have an announced due date – no exceptions.
* Plagiarism: Plagiarism is not allowed and will result in a disciplinary referral and a 0 on the assignment.
* Homework: Work in English class comes not as a steady stream, but as sizable chunks. You must learn to pace your assignments over the weeknights or weekends and around other school work and/or activities.
* Group Work: I will make it entirely clear when work is considered group work and should be done as a group; ALL other work should be done independently. Group work should have individual responsibilities clarified, often determined by group and agreed upon with teacher.
* Work Ethically: Have and maintain your character. Once you lose someone’s respect it is very difficult to gain it back.
* Handbook Consideration: The handbook policies will be enforced regularly. No food, gum, drinks **(plain water only**). Tend to your personal needs before class – if the need arises to use the restroom during class you must wait until it is individual work time to sign the clipboard at the back of the class. Do not abuse this privilege – I will take it away.

**Grading Policy**

* All assignments will be given a number of possible points; incorrect answers will result in a deduction of those points. Your grade will be factored from the summation of these points meaning your points/total possible. Some assignments may be curved based on the instructor’s prerogative.
* Extra Credit: I give it rarely. Extra credit, when given, will be writing oriented and is not worth a certain number of points but on a quality standpoint, to be determined at that time.
* Participation/Citizenship: You are expected to act properly within the school. Any violation will result in a deduction of participation/citizenship points (i.e. dress code violations, inappropriate language, disrespectful behavior etc.)

**Percentages:**

A+ 98-100 B+ 88-89 C+ 78-79 D+ 68-69

A 93-97 B 83-87 C 73-77 D 63-67

A- 90-92 B- 80-82 C- 70-72 D 60-62

Classroom Management

* The Goal: This room will be a safe environment for students to take risks in sharing their ideas and those ideas will be respectfully heard without judgment, ridicule, or any other negative response. Please be kind to those brave enough to share their thoughts.
* Self-government through choices.
* Attention Grabber: Silence or Clapping Hands – You’ll see.
* Restitution – pay it back (e.g. if you take time from me I will be taking time from you).
* My goal is to be more organized this trimester – it should be your goal too!

One Single Classroom Principle for Conduct

*“Do Nothing to Hinder Teaching or Learning”*

What do I mean by this?

* Respectfully follow instructions immediately when they are given – without arguing or complaining.
* Be polite and active listeners.
* Being in your seat with all the materials you need to be successful in the classroom (and don’t pile up by the door at the end of class!)
* Using only clean, positive, uplifting language and writing.
* Keeping your materials, the room and its equipment clean, orderly, and in good condition; being responsible for your assigned area – desk, floor, chair, etc.

Skeletal Outline

* 3/12-3/16 – *The Pearl*, Vocabulary Quiz 13 (Introduce compliment bags)
* 3/19-3/23 – Parts of Speech (Sentence Diagramming), elements of writing an analytical essay, Vocabulary Quiz 14, ***The Pearl* Test**
* 3/26-3/29 – **Collect *The Pearl* Essay**, Grammar – parts of speech, “A Place at the Table”, The Great Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* – start reading, Vocabulary Quiz 15
* 3/30-4/8 – Spring Break! Happy Trails!
* 4/9-4/13 – Grammar Parts of Speech, Wrap up *To Kill a Mockingbird* part one, Assign TKAMB setting essay, Vocabulary Quiz 16
* 4/16-4/17 – **Collect *To Kill a Mockingbird* Essay. Mr. Klooster’s last day is the 17th. Farewell!**