

# Syllabus English 1 & Honors

Dr. de Hart

Oak Hills High School

## I. Objective

The objective for English 1 is summarized by the key goals of the California State adopted Common Core Standards for English Language Arts, namely that the student: **Demonstrates independence** in evaluating a text across disciplines and becomes a self directed learner; **Builds strong content knowledge** across subject matters by proficiency in **research and study**; Respond to varying demands of **audience**, task, purpose, and discipline (nuance, tone, etc.); **Comprehend** as well as **critique** - question author/ speaker's assumptions to access the veracity of claims and the soundness of the reasoning; **Value evidence** and understand what is relevant to support ideas; Use **technology** and digital media strategically and capably, efficient searches and knowledge of reliable sources; **Understand other perspectives** and cultures, *“through reading great classic and contemporary works of literature representative of a variety of periods, cultures, and worldviews...”* [California Department of Education, Core Standards, Introduction]. This will be achieved through the following:

Expectations for Honors will be differentiated for higher learning on ALL assignments AND assessments/research papers and essays, even if similar material/notes/readings are given to English 1 non-honors students.

- A. Narrative Writing, including but not limited to biography, autobiography, sequence of events, format for business letter writing.
- B. Narrative Presentation, including but not limited to a narration of an event using sequential language and style; point of view and vantage point details
- C. Literary Analysis and Response, including but not limited to the identification of figurative language, main ideas, theme, plot development, and literary style.
- D. Writing Strategies, including the development of a coherent thesis and supporting arguments using logic. The student will also gain an understanding of how denotation and connotation are used as literary devices and how to properly employ properly use them.

II. **Text(s)**The Language of Literature will occasionally be used for assignments in class and at home. Assignments from the Language of Literature will be written on the daily agenda in the classroom and/or on Dr. de Hart's website (drdehart.com is also accessible from Oak Hills High School website). Additional reading assignments in class/and or at home may include short stories or abridged readings from Oscar Wilde (*Fairy Tales and Fables*); Edgar Allan Poe (*Short Stories*); *Greek Mythology* (Edith Hamilton, web articles, etc.); Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*; and Percy & Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (narrative epistles), Ayn Rand's *Anthem*; as well as poetry by American, British, and French poets.

III. **Grading** A standard grading scale of A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C= 79-70%; D = 69-60%. 59% and below = F. Note:

Class work/Home work is weighted at 10%; Participation is weighted at 10%; quizzes are weighted at 30%; Attendance is weighted at 10%; Tests/ midterms are weighted at 40%.

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#### IV. Assignments

- A. **Vocabulary** - focus Etymology - Greek/Latin origins to assist in decoding and building a larger college ready English vocabulary . Quizzes each Friday. Lists and reviews may be found online at Dr. de Hart's website. Students who are absent on Mondays when vocabulary is assigned are expected to find the assignment and information online.
- B. **Journals. English One Honors (only):** self directed critical reading books will be assigned and must be completed with weekly summaries, analysis, MLA citations. Details on journal entries will be made available to the students during the first week of the Fall semester.
- C. **Lecture Notebooks.** Each week students will be given direct instruction. Students are expected to take organized and legible notes that will be checked for completion and graded.
- D. **Classwork and Homework.** Assignments will be based on the focus of our particular units in relationship to Common Core Standards. Progress, review, and mastery will be the purpose of homework. **"Here is the News"** is a homework assignment due **each Wednesday at the start of class.** A story from a newspaper (printed or online), must be summarized in the student's *own words with 3 quotations properly*

cited from the article/story. Quotation marks and an identifiable source (where it came from - page number, website address, etc.) must be included for full credit. It is understood that students must set time aside to review for quizzes or written reports. Students should always plan to study/review on Thursday evening for Etymology quizzes on Friday.

- E. **Quizzes, Tests and Written Analysis Papers** will be given as sections of the unit are completed, i.e. short stories, persuasion, vocabulary.

## V. Expectation

I expect your child to learn in a safe and engaging environment. I expect your child to succeed academically and find the intellectual process stimulating and perhaps life changing. I expect respect, focus, preparedness, and participation.

VI. **Contact information** If you need to contact Dr. de Hart, please email at: [scott.dehart@hesperiausd.org](mailto:scott.dehart@hesperiausd.org). This should be your first line of direct communication for a prompt reply.

Phone calls made through Oak Hills High School will be returned as soon as possible with an attempt to make contact within the week. Please check my website for assignments, clarifications, reviews, extra credit, etc.

Additional information about Dr. de Hart's education, teaching experience, publications, etc. can be found at his blog: [drdehart.com](http://drdehart.com)

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