“Stories connect us to each other…they can reveal our conflicts within ourselves and our vulnerabilities to each other. Stories can describe why certain choices are made and others are passed over, and they can reveal the colors of our emotions. Stories have the capacity to convert a line drawing into flesh, to dislodge the power of the presumption and prejudice.”

~from *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem*

Moustafa Bayoumi

English 11 – Mrs. Petix

English 11 is a course that will provide great opportunities for you to develop your skills in literacy, technology, and writing. It is the study of American Literature, 1914 to present, and we have some exciting things to look forward to:

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|  | **Major Works** | **Composition** |
| **1st Semester** | Modern American Literature  *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck  The Harlem Renaissance  *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  *Fences* by August Wilson | Literary Analysis  Argument and Flipped Argument  Personal Narrative |
| **2nd Semester** | *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald  *Othello* by William Shakespeare  Post Modern American Literature  *Maus* by Art Spiegelman | College Essays  Stylistic Analysis  Synthesis |

Entering the classroom: Enter the classroom each day on time and prepared. By the time the tardy bell rings, you should be in your seat with your materials (books, notebooks, pens, etc.) on your desk. Make sure you come to class ready to work; bring all necessary materials daily! You will not be allowed to leave the classroom for any reason once the bell has rung.

Tardiness: Tardiness will simply not be tolerated. Your first tardy is a warning, the second

warrants a call home, and the third requires disciplinary action. This is now the SPHS Tardy

Policy for all teachers.

General classroom procedures/policies: Class begins as soon as the tardy bell rings. If you need to speak to me or ask a question, please do so either before or after class or at an appropriate time in the class period. If you finish individual work early, you will be expected to work on vocabulary, journals, or independent reading without being reminded. If you need to sharpen your pencil, check on make-up work, speak to a classmate, etc.—you should do so BEFORE class begins. Look to the board or screen for daily instructions at the beginning of the period.

Basic Rules: 1. Respect everyone around you—don’t talk or get up while people are speaking,

be kind, etc.

2. Bring *your own* materials and clean up after yourself before leaving the room.

3. No eating or drinking in the classroom.

4. Technology should be used appropriately and respectfully. If you’re not

supposed to have your phone or Chromebook out, don’t. Privileges will be lost if

you break this rule.

5. Follow dress code.

Classroom Management: Behavior is an important piece of our classroom puzzle. In order for our class time to be spent efficiently, I will expect you to treat myself and your peers with respect at all times. If a student’s behavior becomes progressively disruptive, I will follow these steps:

**1st Offense**—Verbal Warning. This includes a variety of things, such as disruptions, disrespect, misuse of technology, talking out of turn, sleeping, incomplete work, lack of cooperation, eating, etc.

**2nd Offense**—Teacher Option/Parental Contact. If the offense happens again and/or is a more serious offense, parents will be contacted, and detention or another disciplinary option will be assigned. No exceptions.

**3rd Offense**—Administrative Referral. A discipline form will be sent with a referral for appropriate punishment.

Homework and Projects**:** I do not accept late homework. However, if you are turning in an essay or other major assignment late you will be penalized 10% per calendar day. *Do not use computer/printer failure as an excuse for failure to have an assignment*. If this happens to you, be resourceful and find a way to get the work finished so that you will have it to turn in on the due date. I cannot accept notes from parents asking for an extension on due dates. Furthermore, the high school has a computer lab and a library with multiple computer stations so you may type assignments.

Absences: If you have a PRE-ARRANGED absence, please see me to get all your assigned work before you leave. If you are unexpectedly absent, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILTY to get your missing work and have it made up by the agreed upon date. **Check my website** each day that you are absent for assignments and tests/quizzes that need to be made up. It will be your responsibility to get notes that you missed, complete classwork/homework, and schedule times to make up tests/quizzes. Please see the SPHS Handbook for the school’s policy on absences and make-up work.

Make-Up Work: If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, you must turn it in upon your

return to class. *If you miss a quiz/test,* *you must make it up within three days of your absence*. If

your absence is unexcused, I will be unable to enter your score. You will have a zero for all

assignments that are not made up within three days or for unexcused absences.

Keeping a notebook: You need to bring your binder and all class material daily. Your binder will be divided into four sections: Reading, Writing, Grammar, and Returned Work.

Keeping a calendar: Everyone should have some way of organizing assignments and due dates—paper calendar, electronic calendar, *something*! It is important that you keep up with and use your calendar. I will go over the weekly agenda at the beginning of every week. *Always* record upcoming assignments for all of your classes. Organization and preparedness are also pieces of the puzzle and are key to your success in my class.

## Daily materials: Every day that you come in to class you will need to have your binder, designated textbook, vocabulary workbook, pen, and paper. Other necessary supplies include 3x5 lined note cards, posters, and markers; however, these materials do not have to be brought to class each day. Other classroom items that are appreciated but not required are tissue and hand sanitizer.

Grade Distribution: You will be evaluated on the following criteria: tests, projects, compositions, quizzes, homework, and participation. I do grade in-class discussions and participation so speak up! I grade based on the following SPHS-established percentages: Composition 40%, Tests 30%, Quizzes/Projects 20%, Daily Grades/HW 10%.

Academic Integrity: I expect you to be honest in all regards to your education this school year. Academic dishonesty, which ranges from copying someone’s homework to plagiarizing a research paper, will not be tolerated. If an incident of cheating occurs, students will be disciplined according to SPHS policies.