

12th Grade Honors English Syllabus

Signal Mountain Middle High School // Mr. Doebler//mrdoebler@gmail.com

Course Description

This year students will read a variety of classic and contemporary British literature, informational texts, and non-traditional texts. In addition, they will hone their research skills, develop critical thinking strategies surrounding “real world” issues, write a variety of effective, focused pieces, evaluate ideas from multiple perspectives, and use technology to enhance their communication.

Throughout the year, our overall thematic focus will be “advocacy.” The literature and writing pieces we engage in will reflect this focus by looking at how advocacy (intentional support given on behalf of others) is accomplished through many different voices and perspectives.

Course Outline

We will cover the following units throughout the course of this year:

Quarter One: The Power of Words

How do words shape identities? How can we know with certainty how language is being used? To what extent does perspective shape our understanding of language?

Quarter Two: The Power of Stories

How are effective stories communicated? What are the effects of stories upon a culture? How can stories inspire change?

Quarter Three: The Power of the People

What is the purpose and responsibility of government? Of citizens? How can we know our rights as citizens? How can individuals and civic organizations influence government?

Quarter Four: The Power of Hope

How do we define and measure progress? What factors will make the future better than the present? How can we communicate visions about the future to people living in the present?

Required Course Reading:

Throughout the course, students will need to read frequently and widely **outside of class** in order to gather, evaluate, and share ideas that will be discussed throughout this course.

SMMHS English Department Statement:

SMMHS’s mission is to provide a world-class education that successfully engages our students and fully prepares them to compete with students from all over the world. Our required reading selections are carefully chosen by our faculty for the richness and complexity of ideals that they contain-ideals that we

expect our students to analyze, discuss, and reflect upon. In such a diverse community as ours, we cannot ensure that your student will never encounter content that may conflict with his/her (or your) personal beliefs and values. Rest assured, however, that our faculty are committed to fostering classroom environments where difficult content is addressed with the utmost maturity and professionalism.

Required Materials:

Have these with you every class:

- A binder to organize notes, handouts, etc.
- A writing instrument that does not need sharpening
- Current coursework

Required Outside Texts:

Please purchase a copy of these two texts by the date indicated.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (any edition is fine). Purchase by Fall Break

Coursework Policies:

Homework assignments are intended to help students develop and practice required skills or prepare for classroom learning experiences at a pace set by the instructor. Honors students are expected to complete all assignments by their given due dates. Therefore late work may be assessed with an automatic 10 point penalty (one letter grade). Also, work that is deemed “significantly incomplete” may not be accepted for credit and may be counted late (at the teacher’s discretion). No late coursework assignment will be accepted after the grading quarter in which it was assigned has ended.

Electronic Device Policy:

Electronic devices are permitted to be used in class for class-related activities only. Examples of class-related activities may include looking up vocabulary words, accessing managebac, accessing course materials, accessing course texts, etc. Examples of inappropriate use may include checking social media, texting, accessing non-course related material (e.g. sports scores, netflix, etc.) All electronic devices are required to be in silent mode unless being used for course-related purposes. Violations of this policy will result in confiscation of the device.

Attendance/Make-up Work:

Missing class is sometimes unavoidable. However, it is **required** that a student who misses class for any reason check the course website for any missed announcements, assignments, or materials. As per the SMMHS handbook, students have up to 5 days after an excused absence to turn in any missed assignments.

Managebac:

All the information for major assessments, along with course-related resources, will be posted in Managebac. Students are expected to have a working email address that they check several times a week

so they can receive messages/updates from Mr. Doeblar. Most major written assignments will be submitted through Managebac and checked (for plagiarism) by Turnitin.

Power School:

I update grades weekly in power school. There may be a delay in the posting of grades for major assessments (papers, projects, etc.). Most coursework grades are posted within a week of completion.

Additional Help:

Email is the most reliable way to get in touch with me outside of school hours. I seldom check my HCDE email account outside of school hours. To ensure that I receive an email at home, please use my mrdoebler@gmail.com email address.