**Tappan Zee High School**

**15 Dutch Hill Road
Orangeburg, New York 10962**

**September 2017**

**Dear Parents and Members of the Class of 2021,**

**We welcome you to Tappan Zee High School and wish you the most productive and happiest experiences possible.  We hope your English classes will offer you an opportunity to excel and to take the best advantage of your abilities.  The course will emphasize close and critical reading, independent reading, and evidence-based analytical writing.  We hope you will develop your reading skills so that enjoyment of the written word becomes a lifetime pleasure for you.**

**We are here to help you to achieve your potential.  Teachers will be available for office hours on a weekly basis; please come in whenever you need help or clarification about classwork.  The attached outline is an explanation of our expectations and requirements for the school year.   Please ask us about anything we may have overlooked.**

**Have a wonderful year.**

**Sincerely,**

**The Ninth Grade English Team Teachers**

**ENGLISH 9R**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**EXPECTATIONS:**

This heterogeneously grouped course begins the four year English sequence which includes the New York State Regents Exam at the end of the junior year.  This course requires students to do extensive work reading, discussing, and writing about literature and non-fiction selections.

**Literature:**  Students will read a selection of short stories and poems from Prentice Hall.  The following full-length works will be read and analyzed in class:  *To Kill a Mockingbird, The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, Devil at My Heels, and Of Mice and Men.*In addition, students will be required to read independent works in a variety of genres. **\*\*\*Students will be expected to read at least 30 minutes per night and 30 minutes on the weekends as part of their independent reading requirement.**

**Composition:**  A major objective of this course is the development of expository writing skills.  Paragraphs and essays, both timed writing and full writing process pieces, will be assigned frequently.  By the end of the course, students will be expected to write a well-structured evidence-based essay. Additionally, students will complete a Research Project that will engage them in the skills needed to develop a research-based essay that supports its claim with strong evidence.

Other curriculum areas will include vocabulary development, grammar, listening and speaking.  Extension and enrichment activities will be offered to all interested students.  Class participation and homework will be 20% of the student’s grade.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

1. Independent Reading Book every day in class

2. Three-Ring Binder of at least 1 ½ inches with Dividers (with the following sections: Critical

   Reading, Writing and Grammar, and Word of the Day/Vocabulary)

3. Looseleaf Paper

4. Blue or Black Pens

5. Highlighter

7.  Two 2-Pocket Folders for classroom use

8. Other (according to your classroom teacher)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**EVALUATION:**

Grades are determined as follows:

Class participation and homework 20%

Writing assignments, tests, quizzes, and projects 80%

Assignments will be weighed according to the amount of time allowed for each.  Unit tests are weighted more heavily than quizzes.

Assignments will be required to be submitted electronically through TurnItIn.com.  Instructions regarding this will be supplied with the corresponding assignments.

**FINAL GRADE CALCULATION FOR THE YEAR**-

**21% each quarter average + 16% FINAL EXAM grade**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION INCLUDES:**

1. Regular attendance.

2. Arriving to class on time.

3. Arriving with all necessary materials (Independent Reading Book, homework, binder, pens, etc).

4. Attention and attitude during class.  Students are expected to demonstrate respect for teachers and fellow students. Students are expected to work only on English assignments during class.  Homework for any other class will be confiscated and addressed as per school policy.

5. Taking clear notes for each period.

6. Positive participation in both small and large group discussions.  This includes both speaking and listening and presenting group projects.

7. Being responsible for finding out and making up missed work due to absences or lateness.

8. Daily use of your homework planner for assignments.

**POLICIES CONCERNING ABSENCES:**

1. Any work previously assigned is due on the day you return.  Any test previously assigned **must** be taken on your return, in accordance with school policy.

2. You are responsible for making up the class work and homework assigned during your absence.  This work must be made up and submitted within two days after your return.  It is **your** responsibility to find out exactly what you have missed and to **complete** it without having to be reminded.

3. **NO WORK OR TEST MAY BE MADE UP IF THE ABSENCE IS A CUT.  YOU WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO ON THESE ASSIGNMENTS.**

4. Any absence for school-related reasons (music lessons, field trips, rehearsals, appointments with nurse, guidance and/or another teacher) must be **approved in advance.**

5. When you are absent, call another member of your class to get your assignments.

**POLICIES CONCERNING LATE WORK:**

1. Homework: Homework will be assigned almost every night and is due at the beginning of class.  **Full credit will be given only for homework completed on time.**  Once a unit is completed, no late homework will be accepted for that unit.

2. Writing Assignments: Essays and other writing assignments must be handed in on or before the due date.  If you are in school but miss English on the date an essay is due, **you are still responsible** for handing the essay to your teacher on that day.  If you are absent on the date that the essay is due, you must hand in the essay on the day you return.

**PENALTIES:** 5 points will be deducted for each day an essay is late.

**CAUTION:    COPIED OR PLAGIARIZED WORK WILL RESULT IN A ZERO**

**FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.**

**TALKING OR LOOKING AROUND DURING TESTING**

**SITUATIONS WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR ALL PARTIES**

**CONCERNED.**

**CAUTION:   WORK SUBMITTED IN ANY OTHER COURSE IN THIS BUILDING**

**MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED IN THIS COURSE.  LIKEWISE, WORK**

**SUBMITTED IN THIS COURSE MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED IN ANY**

**OTHER COURSE.  DOING SO WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR ALL**

**PARTIES INVOLVED.**

3.  No work will be accepted after a unit or quarter closes.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

This information is presented to avoid any future problems or misunderstandings.

We wish you success in this course.

If you ever need any extra help do not hesitate to ask.  Office hours are available and students should make appointments when necessary.  Additional appointments are available during some periods of the school day.

|  |
| --- |
| Please keep the copy of the course requirements for your own reference and return this signed portion to your English teacher. |

September 2017

Declaration:

I have read the above requirements and understand my responsibilities in English 9R.  I have also read the Student Handbook and understand the school’s policies.

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(Student Name - PRINTED)

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(Student’s signature)

I have read the above requirements for English 9R Regents and have seen the Student Handbook.

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        (Parent/Guardian’s signature)

Parent/Guardian Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evening telephone #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian e-mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_