**Junior English (American Literature)**

**Mrs. Sorensen Room #2403**

**danielle.sorensen@jordandistrict.org**

**Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7:05-7:25; Mon.-Fri. 2:30-3:00**

**Class Website: http://mrssorensenenglishclass.weebly.com/**

**Sometimes unexpected meetings come up. To make sure I am going to be available before or after school, let me know if you are planning to come to see me so I can let you know if I won’t be available.**

**There will also be MAP time Mon.-Thurs. from 8:57-9:27 for make-up work and extra help from Mrs. Sorensen.**

**About Mrs. Sorensen:** I am an English teaching intern for the school year 2015-16. I operate my own classrooms with guidance from a mentor teacher, Mrs. Anderson. Please feel free to contact either of us with any questions or concerns (elizabeth.anderson@jordandistrict.org).

**Herriman High Purpose Statement:** We are dedicated to providing students with a high quality education and preparing them to thrive in a dynamic society as caring, creative, and responsible adults.

**Herriman High Vision Statement:** Quality students today…dynamic leaders tomorrow!

**Course Description/Objective:** This course is designed to give students a broader perspective of American literature through the study of founding documents, novels, short stories, plays, and poetry. We will also focus on research, writing, vocabulary, and ACT preparation.

**Supplies/Fees:**

Students will need to have the following supplies in class everyday:

* A binder or folder with pockets and plenty of paper
* A pen or pencil
* Homework and/or handouts from class
* For the Reading Report, students will be responsible for poster board or any other supplies needed.

**Class Expectations:**

* **Be Ready:** Have all supplies with you in class (binder, pen/pencil, handouts, and/or homework).
* **Be Responsible:** **Be in your seat when the bell rings** and observe **all rules** in the student handbook.
* **Be Respectful:** Don’t talk while Mrs. Sorensen or another student is talking. Raise your hand and wait to be called on to contribute to the lesson/discussion.
* **All electronics (phones, ipods, ear buds, ear phones, etc.) need to be turned off and out of my sight or they will be taken away. Consider this your first warning!** There may be times when Mrs. Sorensen allows you to listen to music in class, but **only when she gives permission.**

**Consequences:**

* Students who follow the rules will earn rewards such as free time, a call or email notification to your parents, a few minutes of free time, or other individual positive consequences.
* For those students who choose not to follow the classroom rules, consider this your warning before I use other interventions, which include, but are not limited to, a change of seating, student-teacher conference, a call home, or a referral to administration.

**Grading/Late Policy:**

* All assignments have a due date and need to be handed in *when they are called for* to receive full credit.
* **If you need to turn your work in late, you will receive 50% credit, on the grade you would have earned, had the assignment been turned in on time.**
* If you are absent when something is due, **it is your responsibility to turn in previously assigned work the following class period for full credit.** I will not ask you for it! If you do not turn what was previously due when you were absent the class period you get back, it will be considered late and **you will earn 50% credit on the grade you would have earned had it been turned in on time.** There will be a final cut-off date for all late work prior to mid-term and the final week of the quarter. Mrs. Sorensen will let you know these dates.
* While students should make every effort to be in class, sometimes absences are unavoidable. When a student is absent **for any reason**, and an assignment, test, or activity is done on that day, they will be given 5 school days after their return to make up and turn in any missed work for full credit, as this is **district policy**. After that time the work becomes **late and will receive 50% credit.**
* For **ANY** absence, it is the **student’s responsibility** to come see Mrs. Sorensen either before or after school for questions and information about missed work. **Mrs. Sorensen will not discuss absent or late work during class time.** Students can pick up any missed handouts from the missed work crate. **Turning in late work is the student’s responsibility.**

**Plagarism/Cheating:**

Students will lose ***all*** credit for an assignment they cheat on. This means that if a student turns in an assignment that is plagiarized **(in whole or in part),** either from the Internet or any other source, he or she will receive a “0” without the opportunity to make it up. This also includes students who allow others to cheat off of their work. **For assignments that require direct quotes and/or paraphrasing from other sources, students are required to cite the information in MLA format to receive credit on the assignment.** Students are expected to use MLA standards for all papers. For a review of these standards, go to the following website. We will do a brief review before our first essay. If students miss this lesson, they are responsible for learning this information on their own:

[**http://library.csun.edu/egarcia/documents/mlacitation\_quickguide.pdf**](http://library.csun.edu/egarcia/documents/mlacitation_quickguide.pdf)

**Grading Scale:**

I follow district/school grading policy. I do not round up grades. I do not give extra credit.

94-100% = A 80-83% = B- 68-69% = D+

90-93% = A- 77-79% = C+ 64-67% = D

88-89% = B+ 74-76% = C 60-63% = D-

84-86% = B 70-73% = C- 0-59% = F

***Approximate breakdown of grading components*** (Point values will be on Skyward)

25% Writing assignments

25% Assessments/Tests

20% In-class assignments/homework

20% Participation (Reading and Grammar)

10% Reading Report

**Attendance Policy:**

**I follow the school-wide attendance policy as it is found in the student handbook. Please review the policy if you have any questions.**

**Dress Code Policy (As written in the Student Handbook):**

Students shall dress in a manner that show respect for the educational environment and is benefiting the day’s activities. Student’s clothing and jewelry must not present a health or safety hazard or distraction, which disrupt the educational mission. Students who violate the dress code may face disciplinary action and will be asked to change into other acceptable clothes. Please see the Student Handbook for specifics on what is and is not acceptable.

**Film Clips and Segments:**

Here is a list of **possible** movies that I may be showing **clips/portions** from to enhance lesson/discussions about the different learning objectives we will be covering in class. **Not all of these movies will be watched in their entirety.** I choose scenes and dialogue for visual teaching/learning purposes. These movies are all district and school approved:

* Warner Brothers “Of Mice and Men” (PG13)
* Hallmark’s “Legend of Sleepy Hallow” (Made for Television)
* MGM’s, Alred Hitchcock’s “Rear Window” (PG)
* Universal Picture’s “October Sky” (PG)
* Dreamworks’ “Seabiscuit” (PG13)
* Image Entertainment’s “Macbeth” (PG)
* Columbia Picture’s “Fly Away Home” (PG)
* Warner Brother’s “The Great Gatsby” 2013 (PG13)
* PBS’s, History Channel’s, and A&E documentaries on geographical and historical locations and events to enhance American Literature (Television rated G and PG)
* Various clips from animated Pixar/Disney Movies
* Various clips from Warner Brother’s Harry Potter Series

**Class Website:**

I have a class website at <http://mrssorensenenglishclass.weebly.com/> . Here, I post the daily classroom handouts/worksheets, and homework. If your student is absent, they are responsible to go onto the website, see what they missed, and turn in the late work within 5 schools days (late work policy can be found on page 2). This website also has an electronic copy of this disclosure, information about me, and my school email (which can also be found on page 1).



**Daily Participation Expectations and Points:**

**Reading Requirement:**

As a part of the daily routine, there will be 10-15 minutes of silent reading at the beginning of class, for which **students will earn 5 points a day.** If students are tardy or absent for any reason, they lose the daily points until they can make up the reading before or after school, or during MAP time in Mrs. Sorensen’s classroom, with Mrs. Sorensen present. Students not in my 8th period need to bring their own novel for this reading time. There are a few book shelves filled with young adult novels and above in my 8th period room. Because many of the books came from a book drive for individual/outside reading novels, the type of novels collected were not all from the Jordan District English curriculum approved reading list set up for units that are to be read as class novels. However, most of the title donated are already available through our school library, which carries a different requirement for approval. You are welcome to come in at any time to see the books I have available to my students. These books are not to leave the classroom, but are available for silent reading time only. Because students read at different paces, it is an expected courtesy that those who begin reading a book have “dibs” to finish it before another students uses it. By signing this disclosure, you are stating that you are aware that there is a variety of young adult level novels and above in my classroom, and that you give permission for your child to read from them if needed.

**Grammar Practice Requirement:**

Another part of the daily routine is a grammar review. Following the daily reading, students will have a grammar sheet on which they answer questions and practice writing with correct grammar. **Students will earn 5 points a day** for working on this grammar sheet. This sheet will be collected every five class periods. Should a student be absent for any reason, he or she will need to come in before or after school, or during MAP time to make up the grammar. If students are absent on the day the sheet is turned in, he or she will need to make it up and turn it in no later than one week after the absence, or receive 50% credit for it as per district policy for late work.

**\*\* Together, these daily requirements are the 20% participation points of the total grade each quarter.**

**Reading Report Information:**

There will be a book report project due for the first three quarters for which students will receive instructions for within the first week of class. These are formatted to be presentation oriented. For the final quarter, there will be an in-class writing assignment about the outside reading novel and no presentation required. Students need to read a different novel every quarter, and must select a different project for each quarter as well. Students sign up for their presentation day well in advance. If a student is absent for any reason in presentation day, the only way he or she will be able to make it up later is if they have a doctor’s note reflecting the absence. If the absence is due to a school approved activity or a vacation leave, it is the student’s responsibility to either arrange to do it early, or arranged with Mrs. Sorensen to do it on another presentation day. **The reading Report/Presentation is 10% of the total grade each quarter and is a requirement of the core curriculum, so there is not an alternate assignment.**

Please complete and send back **only the bottom portion of this disclosure.** Your student can keep the rest of it for reference. This completed form is the first homework assignment of the quarter. **IT IS DUE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Class Title:** Junior English **Teacher:** Mrs. Sorensen

**I have read the disclosure statement for Mrs. Sorensen’s class and I understand that my student and I are responsible to know and follow the expectations listed. My students and I also approved of the films listed in the disclosure for learning purposes in Mrs. Sorensen’s class.**

Teaching Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Administration Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_