

## LA1 - HONORS

Mrs. Secoda

Room 404

ksecoda@pylusd.org

### Course Description and Objectives

Language Arts I-Honors is a college-preparatory course that provides an in-depth study of written and oral language using literature as the basis for expanding student skills. Students will read, interpret, and analyze selections in the genres of nonfiction, short story, epic, drama, poetry, and the novel.

### Behavior Expectations

1. Be courteous, respectful, and KIND to all.
2. Come to class on time prepared to participate as an active learner.
3. Be seated and ready to begin *before* the bell rings.
4. Have all smartphones/cell-phones, I-pods, video game devices, and other electronic devices turned off (or on silent) prior to entering the classroom. Electronic devices *may not be visible* until students exit the classroom; however, students may use specific electronic devices or programs *with permission* for educational purposes only (ie. Google Classroom, Chromebooks, etc.). In short, NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS.
5. Use technology appropriately.
6. Complete all assignments on time.
7. Use academic and appropriate language in class.
8. Check posted grades on Aeries regularly.
9. Follow all rules and expectations included in the VHS handbook.
10. Most importantly, be a decent (or better yet, amazing) human being.

### CLASS EXPECTATIONS (HONORS CLASS)

Students are expected to adhere to all school policies and procedures, which will be strictly enforced.

Classroom rules are designed to create a positive learning environment for all students. In an honors level class, it is expected that all students be well-behaved, assertive, and self-disciplined. Failure to do so may jeopardize a student's privilege to remain in an honors level class.

### Test Taking in Class:

Do not violate the testing environment. This can include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Having a phone out and/or visible for any reason, **including checking the time.**
2. If a student needs to use the restroom during a test, their cell phone must remain in the classroom/student backpack.
3. Communicating with anyone in class verbally or nonverbally.
4. Using unauthorized study materials during a test.

*If you have questions about what is permissible, please see me for specifics.*

## Grades

Grades are based on written assignments (including major projects), essays, literature tests, grammar tests, vocabulary quizzes, oral presentations, class participation in discussions and seminars, and the final exam. Assignments are weighted as follows:

Curriculum Component	Percentage of Overall Grade	Curriculum Component	Percentage of Overall Grade
Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essays</li><li>• One pagers</li></ul>	30%	Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Socratic Seminar</li><li>• Literature Circles</li><li>• Class Discussions</li></ul>	15%
Classwork/Homework	25%	Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tests</li><li>• Quizzes</li><li>• Projects/ Presentations</li></ul>	30%

A weighted grading system requires students to perform well across all categories and allows me to easily pinpoint areas where a student should focus his/her attention or seek extra help. Students should know in advance that opportunities for extra credit points are rare. Students, however, can and should check their academic progress regularly. Grades are updated in AERIES approximately every two weeks.

## Course Content: Literature

Many of the short story selections will be located within the StudySync (McGraw Hill) curriculum assigned for this course. In addition, the following texts will be studied over the course of the year:

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck  
*The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare  
*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
*The Odyssey* by Homer

\*Honors students will be required to annotate the major works of literature noted above. Copies of the novels will be provided by VHS for student use, however annotations may only be made with sticky notes in school copies. Any students wishing to write in their own copies of the texts are welcome to purchase personal copies although this is not required.

## Course Content: Class Work and Homework

**HOMEWORK - AS HONOR STUDENTS, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO TURN IN ALL HOMEWORK ON TIME.**

Homework, or individual time spent studying outside of class, is an essential part of the learning process. Students should expect to have reading homework most nights. In addition, long-term projects are often assigned that require students to work independently and outside of class over a two to four-week time period. Updates to the agenda are written on the board each day. **Homework will be accepted late with the penalty of 10% per day.**

### ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP WORK

Students with an excused absence are given one day for each day they are absent to make up class/homework and one week to make up tests. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to check in with the teacher regarding missed work or tests BEFORE CLASS BEGINS or via email on the day of the absence. All make-up tests are given before school and must be scheduled in advance with the teacher. Students will have one week to make up any missed tests due to an absence. If tests are not made up within one week, the score becomes an automatic zero.

## Necessary Supplies

It is of the utmost importance that you come to class ready to participate as an active learner. In order to do this, you must bring the following supplies (in addition to the obvious supplies such as pencil/pen/paper) to class on a daily basis:

- Composition notebook for LA1-H
- Highlighters in three different colors for annotating texts
- Assigned novels, reading assignments, handouts, etc.

Dear Parents/Guardians, and Family Members,

Hello and welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I have sent home the course syllabus with your student, and I would greatly appreciate it if you would look it over and review the course policies and important information that it covers. After you have reviewed the syllabus, please sign the attached contact information page to indicate that you understand and agree to the policies mentioned within the syllabus. **Please have your student return the signed copy of the syllabus and the signed film viewing policy permission slip (on the last page) by this Thursday, the 30th of August.**

The best way to contact me is through e-mail at the address listed below. Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions you might have about the class. I try my best to respond within 24 hours. I look forward to meeting you at *Back-to-School Night* and I am looking forward to working with you to help your student succeed this year in Language Arts 1-Honors! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Secoda

ksecoda@pylusd.org

# Language Arts I

## VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL

I look forward to this year as an exciting and meaningful opportunity to work with my students as they learn and mature into responsible individuals.

1. By signing this form, you indicate that you have read the course outline and understand the expectations outlined in the course syllabus.
2. Your signature indicates that you understand that students are financially responsible for any books checked out that are lost and/or stolen.
3. During the course of the year, students may view films that coincide with the major works of literature studied. The Placentia Yorba-Linda Unified School District allows the use of PG and PG-13 rated films with parent permission. By signing this form, you are indicating that your child has permission to view these PG and PG-13 films. Possible titles include To Kill A Mockingbird, Of Mice and Men, The Odyssey, and Romeo and Juliet.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

*Please sign and return to your teacher by Thursday, August 30, 2018.*