



Course Disclosure for Mr. Thompson's English Classes



Apology to Parents

You will receive at least six of these disclosures for each secondary student in your household. Due to controversies in recent years, course disclosures have become so lengthy and complicated that it is unreasonable to expect that most parents will actually read every word of them; to do so for every class attended by every child in the family would take more time than most of us have. Secondly, the disclosure is a legal requirement, but it has little educational value for students, so I am going to make this fit on one page because I cringe at the thought of using more than one sheet of paper (paid for with your tax dollars) for something that doesn't directly help students learn. For those who are truly interested in a large-print, hyper-linked, full-scale version of the disclosure, it is available at <http://ffjh.davis.k12.ut.us/thompson/>. I am sorry to have to do this to you, but I will need you to **sign and return the attached form with your student tomorrow**. Thank you for your time.

Essential Skills and Knowledge: The Core Curriculum

End-of-level criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) are now mandated by the state. Students must master the concepts outlined in the Utah State Language Arts Core Curriculum in order to succeed on the CRT for this class. To review the Core Curriculum, visit this Internet address:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/core/corepdf/LA7-12.pdf>

Attendance Policy/Citizenship

UThe school tardy/absence policies will be followed in this class.

UStudents must be in their assigned seats when the bell rings; otherwise, they will be marked late.

UExcessive absence and/or tardiness will result in loss of citizenship credit; however, a student may make up citizenship credit lost due to absence and tardiness if s/he meets with me *at least one week before the end of the grading period* and completes extra work.

UStudents who come to class prepared (*Supplies Needed for English*) and follow the *Classroom Policy* all the time earn *H* citizenship grades. Students who do so most of the time earn *G* citizenship grades.

Supplies Needed for English

- Ⓒ Writing Paper (with lines)
 - Ⓒ Notebook/Folder
 - Ⓒ Blue or Black Pen
 - Ⓒ Independent Reading Book
 - Ⓒ Textbook (when assigned)
 - Ⓒ Homework (when assigned)
 - Ⓒ A Positive Attitude
- These items must be brought to class every day!*

Classroom Policy

Personal Responsibility

Students will be responsible for their own work, their own behavior, and their own interactions with others. This requires three things:

Respect

Cooperation

Honesty

Students are expected to exhibit these qualities while in English class.

Life's Great Equations

Freedom = Responsibility

Choice = Consequence

With Freedom comes Responsibility, and with Choice comes Consequence. Those who accept responsibility for their freedom and accept the consequences of their choices will do very well in this class.

Homework

Students will have homework in this class. On average, homework will be required two or three times per week, but there will be some weeks when none is assigned and others (if s/he has procrastinated on a big project) when the student will have homework every night. The amount of homework depends on what we are working on in class at the time and on how much of the work the student finishes during class.

But **Independent Reading is an ongoing assignment!** *Students should carry a reading book all the time*, and Independent Reading will count in students' final grades. So, even if no homework has been assigned, students in this class still have a certain amount of reading to complete on their own time.

Grading

U A student's grade is calculated based on the percentage of total possible points s/he receives. (See *Grade Scale*.)

U Assignments that weigh heavily into students' grades include core writing assignments, term projects, Independent Reading, and test scores.

Class participation and homework are also important parts of the grade.

Grade Scale

A = 95-100%	C = 71-74%
A- = 91-94%	C- = 67-70%
B+ = 87-90%	D+ = 63-66%
B = 83-86%	D = 59-62%
B- = 79-82%	D- = 55-58%
C+ = 75-78%	F = below 55%

Resources

Book List

Ninth grade classes at Fairfield may study these books:

Profiles in Courage by JFK

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Mythology by Edith Hamilton

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare

The Pigman by Paul Zindel

Anthem by Ayn Rand

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Les Miserables by Victor Hugo

These books are in-class readings and do not count toward Independent Reading points. Often we will read most of the book aloud in class, and the class tests will be much more in-depth than Accelerated Reader tests.

Movie List

These movies (or short clips thereof) may be viewed in class in accordance with district policy:

Greek Mythology

Clash of the Titans

Hercules

Shakespeare by Miramax

Shakespeare: District Video Clips

Shakespeare: Biography

Animal Farm

Fahrenheit 451

The Odyssey

Romeo and Juliet

Taming of the Shrew

To Kill a Mockingbird

The Cask of Amontillado

Various Short Stories on Video

Late Work/Extra Credit

Assignments not turned in on the due date are late. Late credit is ½ of the total points for the first week, and it drops after that amount of time, depending on the assignment. If the student was legitimately absent on the due date and the assignment is turned in within two days of the student's return, the lateness will be excused and full credit given, but *it is the student's responsibility to get and complete assignments missed due to absence*. Extra credit may be offered only to students who have completed all the regular class work. If a student's grade is suffering because s/he failed to turn in assignments, s/he must complete the missing work (which will receive no more than late credit) before requesting extra credit work.

Thompson's Class on the Web

Daily assignments, research links, helpful hints, and the major projects students will complete for this class are available on the Internet at this web address (URL):

<http://ffjh.davis.k12.ut.us/thompson/>

Optional

I occasionally send e-mail reminders of important due dates and upcoming projects. If you would like to be added to my "e-mailing" list, send me an e-mail that includes parent's name, student's name, and the e-mail address (or addresses) to which you would like the reminders sent:

mrthompson@dsdmail.net

Have a great year! *<%^)