**English II**

**Ms. Bernardo**

**mallory.bernardo@houstonisd.org**

**713 741 2410**

**Room 416**

**(Available Monday-Friday via email/phone before 7PM)**

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| Course Description |

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| The first thing that students need to know about rhetoric…is that it’s **all around us** in conversation, in movies, in advertisements and books, in body language, and in art. We **employ rhetoric** whether we’re conscious of it or not, but becoming conscious of how rhetoric works can transform speaking, reading, and writing, making us **more successful and able communicators** and **more discerning audiences.**  — Hepzibah Roskelly, “Special Focus in English Language and Composition: Rhetoric” |

This is a course based in fiction and nonfiction reading and writing in American Literature. We will read short narratives, memoirs, essays, letters, articles, speeches, and plays. We will also study visual rhetoric and focus on building foundational writing skills. The course will cover a wide variety of topics which, I believe, will better prepare you for discussions and writing assignments beyond our campus.

This class is designed to help you establish a solid foundation in ***literary analysis*** and ***persuasion.*** We will be developing this foundation through the study of ***purposeful language***, which is to say we will spend our time considering how words can create and affect meaning. The goal for our class is to engage with texts and ideas from a diverse range of contexts in order to build a well-rounded cache of experiences and perspectives on which to draw.

Our readings will also take on a variety of diverse, sometimes controversial issues that not everyone will agree on; the goal, however, is not to reach **consensus**, but to reach **understanding.**

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns about the content or your performance in this course. My contact information is listed at the top of the syllabus. I am here to support you so that you are well-prepared for the rigor of any literature class you engage in after this.

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| Course Requirements |

***Behavioral Expectations***: It is expected that you follow all HISD and campus policy, as outlined in the student handbook. Failure to meet behavioral expectations will result in a consequence. Continued failure to correct aberrant behavior will result in disciplinary consequences as deemed necessary by myself and/or the administrative team.

* **Be kind, courteous, and respectful to your peers.**
* **Come to class prepared and ready to participate.**
* **Show grace and understanding with yourself and others in our learning environment. (outside of it too!)**
* ***READ, read, and then read some more.***
* **Maintain appropriate online etiquette.**
* **Be quality people!**

***Texts:***

My Perspectives: Literature, Savvas Learning Company

Vocabulary Power Plus for College and Career Readiness, Level 10

Elements of Language: Fourth Course, Holt, Rinehart and Winston (online)

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Independent Reading Book of your choice

Various PDFs by a diverse range of writers

***Required Supplies:***

* Box of tissues
* 1 inch binder
* 5 divider tabs for your binder
* College ruled composition book for journaling and quick writes
* 1 subject college ruled notebook for note-taking
* Highlighters and/or colored markers (having an assortment of colors would be beneficial)
* 2 packs of Post-It notes (one for you, one for the class)
* Black pens
* 3 x5 index cards

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| Grading Policy and Academic Honesty |

***Grading Policy:***

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| **Assessments** | **Daily** Assessments | **Major** Assessments |
| * Analysis Paragraphs * Persuasive Paragraphs * Multiple Choice Quizzes * Timed Writings * Spiderweb Discussions * Projects | * Participation * Assignment Completion * Homework | * Common Assessment * Essays |

* *Writing Portfolio: Each student is responsible for maintaining their writing portfolio by placing graded essays in a writing folder I provide, and each student is encouraged to refer to their portfolio to help with their growth as a writer.*
* *Late Work: Late work is accepted up to* ***one*** *day late for up to a 70% unless an exception has been made by me in writing.*
* *Make-Up Work: You must communicate your absence* ***prior*** *to the class period you will be missing to reschedule missed assignments. If communication is not given, make-up work will be accepted for up to a 70%*
* *Extra Credit: There is NO extra credit in English II. Every assignment counts and should be completed with quality and your best effort. Contact me as soon as you feel yourself struggling.*

***Academic Dishonesty:*** Plagiarism is serious and includes any or all portions of someone else’s work and presenting them as your own original work. This includes, but is not limited to, papers or documents found on the internet. Plagiarism is considered cheating, and results in the following consequences:

* An automatic zero (0) for the assignment
* An “unsatisfactory” (U) conduct grade is issued
* A disciplinary note is sent to the office.
* Final submitted papers that lack citations (plagiarism) will also receive a zero (0).

Papers written outside of class should be typed within the following guidelines: (www.Purdueowl.com)

* Margins: top, bottom, right and left set at 1”
* Font: Times New Roman, or Arial, 12 pt.
* Double-spaced lines

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***please cut on the line above and return form once completed***

***English II Contact Form***

**I look forward to having a wonderful school year with your student and would like to stay connected with you too. Please fill out the following form and return by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**STUDENT’S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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