



## Course Summary English I Honors 2020-2021

**Mrs. M. De La Fuente**

**Class period: 2A**

**Zoom meeting code:**

**Zoom meeting password:**

**Remind code:**

**Email: [melissa.delafuente@stisd.net](mailto:melissa.delafuente@stisd.net)**

**\*\*\*Note to parents: emailing me at the aforementioned address is the fastest means of communication with me. ☺**

### **Content:**

English I Honors is the advanced study of world literature; it also includes the study of writing and language structure. This course initiates the preparation for the College Board Advanced Placement English exams at the high school level. Thus, at the end of this course, each student will be prepared with knowledge and skills established by the College Board (creators of SAT and AP exams) that are essential to becoming empowered, effective thinkers and communicators in our society.

### **Objective:**

The objectives of this course include the development of:  
powerfully effective oral and written communication skills;  
higher order thinking skills to analyze world literature for author's intent, purpose, methodology, and craft;  
independent/self-directed learning skills that will cultivate critical and creative thinking;  
and collaborative learning skills that will allow student-led teaching and learning opportunities.

\*\*\*Students will be exposed to varied genres of literature in order to broaden their understanding and appreciation of literature.

### **Classroom Behavior and Expectations:**

1. Be punctual.
2. Be polite.
3. Be productive.
4. Be prepared.
5. Be positive.

### **Netiquette (Online Etiquette) Statement**

Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face communication with others, but most particularly when writing email and when taking part in collaborative and discussion board activities. Students are expected to adhere to the South Texas ISD

Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks. More comprehensive student code of conduct can be found on our website.

### **Digital Citizenship Standards & Expectations**

- Be on time.
- Wear proper attire.
- Choose a good location and be aware of your background of your video camera when you are in a meeting.
- Mute yourself right when you join and keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking.
- Use the chat to ask questions and make comments related to the topic discussed.
- Give your full, focused attention.
- Use respectful behavior and language.
- Stick to appropriate topics of discussion.
- Use only appropriate icons, emojis, and avatars.
- Wear school appropriate clothing when participating in lessons.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES TO RESPECT ALL PARTICIPANTS**

- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Treat people the same as you would face-to-face.
- Respect the time of others.

### **GUIDELINES WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS (EMAIL, DISCUSSIONS, BLOGGING, AND ETC.)**

- Always sign your name to any contribution you choose to make.
- Be constructive in your responses to others in the class.
- Do not use all caps (Doing so may be interpreted as shouting).
- Re-read your postings before sending them.
- Always think before you write.
- Respond respectfully.
- Use appropriate grammar and structure.
- Spell-check your postings.
- Use short paragraphs focused on one idea.
- Use appropriate business language at all times.

### **Supplies:**

1. Electronic device (preferably a laptop or desktop computer)
2. Composition journal (for note-taking)
3. Pens (Black or blue ink)
4. One pocket folder (to keep informational handouts)

### **Grading Procedure:**

Classwork/Homework/ Participation—35%

Quizzes—30%

Formatives – 0%

Projects, major compositions, and all tests—35%

**Assignments:**

1. Daily work and homework may include, but are not limited to: participation in online class meetings, completion of interactive assignments (FlipGrid, GooseChase, GimKit, Quizziz, etc.), outside reading, vocabulary workshop, assignments, dialectical journals, grammar activities, and written compositions.
2. Quizzes will be given over assigned reading material and daily activities.
4. Compositions will be classwork and/or homework. Some will be timed.
5. Tests will be administered consistently throughout the quarter, and one final exam will be administered at the end of the quarter and/or semester.
6. Expect some literature-related research and/or culminating literary unit assignments. Plagiarism will earn you a zero.

**Formative Assessments:**

Frequently during the year, formative assessments will be given in the form of written or oral quizzes, homework, readings, student writing, tests, and discussions. Feedback will be given, but no grade will be assigned. These assignments provide feedback to the teacher and individual student to assess current knowledge base, need for growth/ supplemental instruction, or mastery of upcoming concepts and need for student enrichment opportunities. In short, formative assessments help individualize/ maximize student learning.

**Participation Requirements:** Students are expected to follow their school schedule and meet online with their teacher throughout the week via the Zoom (see code information above) or Microsoft TEAMS. Participation in daily lessons include: enabling camera, entering responses into the chat box when asked to do so, and completing daily assignments and tasks on ItsLearning platform.

**Note:** Online discussions are an opportunity for you to interact with and learn from your peers. The class will regularly engage in conversations about the course content. You will receive credit for your participation in these academic discussions. You are expected to post thoughtful, respectful, and well-written responses to the discussion questions and reply thoughtfully to at least two other students per discussion unless otherwise instructed by your teacher.

**Its Learning & Digital TxtBk (TBA)**

This course requires the use of ItsLearning, an online learning platform similar to Blackboard. All assignments will be submitted electronically in this course, or through our digital textbook platform. More information on our digital textbook will be forthcoming.

**AR:**

Students are required to read novels within their reading range and test on them through the Accelerated Reading program. AR point accumulations are taken as extra credit. AR tests taken may also be applied to a student's grade as per teacher discretion.

Students are also required to complete a book project that reflects deep understanding and literary analysis on an AR book of their choice each semester. This project is worth a major test grade and two possible daily grades. In addition, the AR program tracks the number of words read by students and this word count will go towards our 5-STAR Reader challenge.

**Late Work Policy:**

**All work is to be turned in on time.** In the event of a documented emergency/ absence, late work will be accepted. It is the student who is responsible for turning in his/ her assignments at the scheduled time and date OR for making alternate arrangements with the teacher in the event of emergency/ absence. If there are extenuating circumstances, the teacher may—at his/ her discretion—allow a student to turn in “late work” However, the highest score a student can earn on late work is a grade of 70%. If a student chronically attempts to turn in late work, the teacher will, of course, make the decision that late work will no longer be permitted, and a parent conference will be called to make parents/ guardians aware of the teacher’s concerns.

**Attendance:**

Students must check in daily to receive credit for the course.

**Retesting:**

Retesting is a privilege that is extended to a student who has failed a major exam/assessment. Additional assigned material may be a prerequisite to taking a retest, and the teacher determines the time and date of all retesting. Retests are usually offered after school during tutorial sessions; they are not offered during class time in order to ensure that students do not fall further behind with course pacing.

**Note: It is your responsibility to make contact with your teacher to discuss your retesting options.**

\*\*\*Pop-quizzes, quizzes, and final exams may not be retaken.

\*\*\* A maximum grade of 70% may be obtained on all exam retests.

**Pyramid of Interventions:** The objective of this class is for every student to successfully demonstrate mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and skills (TEKS) and the South Texas ISD Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs) for English 1 Honors. Students not successfully progressing will be assisted by the in-class pyramid of interventions and the campus pyramid of interventions. These interventions may include additional class activities and assignments, required after school tutorial, and other interventions specifically designed to address student needs.

**RSA ELA teachers are among the finest in the “business” of education! ☺ We look forward to getting to know you and your child as the year progresses. Together, we seek great learning opportunities, expand our intellectual horizons, and do all that we can to get your child to reach his/ her maximum potential as a thinker, reader, writer, and human being.**

