

Gifted English 10 Syllabus
Desoto Central High School
Mrs. Ruff

Course Philosophy

Gifted English 10 is a challenging pre-advanced placement (AP) course that will allow students to learn and use AP strategies in writing and reading. In addition to preparing for AP English, we will also focus on the skills needed to be successful on the English II state test. In order for a student to succeed in this course and to gain the knowledge and skills needed for AP English in 11th and 12th grades, parents and students need to structure time at home for reading and writing assignments for this class.

What makes regular English classes different from Gifted English classes is the intensity and depth of analysis of fiction and non-fiction work, rigorous training in writing, and relevant and engaging reading assignments. Students will read novels, non-fiction works, poetry, and drama in a theme-based format. Grammar and vocabulary study will help sharpen students' reading and writing skills as well. My goals for my students are for them to emerge from my class as better readers, stronger writers, more critical thinkers, and more informed citizens.

Contact Information

- Email is the best way to contact me. My email address is mary.ruff@dcsms.org.
- Sign up for your class's Remind account in order to receive updates from me. Text the message @ruff10 to 81010. I use this often, and it is an easy way to contact me outside of school.
- My classroom is B26, and I have planning during second block this semester.

Materials

- Three-ring binder with notebook paper (you may share with another class, but no spiral notebooks please)
- Highlighters, pens, pencils
- A copy of the text we are currently discussing

Reading List

- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Antigone* by Sophocles
- *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Additional novels or plays may be added to this list in addition to short stories and selected poetry from the textbook. A classroom set of each of these novels is available for the student to use.

Grading Scale

- Daily (homework, vocabulary, quizzes, class work) 10%
- Informal writing (journals, reflections, drafts) 10%
- Exam 20%
- Projects, tests, major papers 60%

Grading Policy

- Late homework assignments will not be accepted.
- Ten points per day will automatically be deducted from essays turned in late.
- All writing assignments must be typed in MLA format unless otherwise specified. You may email me your writing assignments, but they must be emailed in a .doc format and must be emailed before your class begins on the day the assignment is due.
- If an assignment is emailed or turned in after the tardy bell has rung, you will receive a ten-point deduction for late work. Please do not come to my room once class has begun and ask me to check your email and print your work; this will result in a loss of ten points.

Course Expectations

- Students must maintain a 70/C average or higher in order to enroll in a gifted English class the following year.
- Students will take a state test in English 10 towards the end of this semester. We will spend ample time throughout the semester preparing for this assessment.