Teacher: Veronica Rowlinson

Room 255

Email: vrowlinson@bostonpublicschools.org

Class website: www.MrsRowELA.weebly.com

Office hours: Monday 1:50- 2:15 time and by appointment

**Boston Public Schools Senior Syllabus**

**East Boston High School**

**English Language Arts 12 -- 2015 - 2016**

**Course Overview:**

English Language Arts 12 is a two-semester college and preparatory course designed to help ready students for college and life beyond high school. Students will read a variety of complex texts to help promote the development of both their thinking and writing. Anchor texts for the course include *Frankenstein, Julius Caesar, Brave New World, Hamlet, Malcolm X, and Fences,* and a wide range of informational texts, essays, and poems. In addition to cultivating reading skills, students continue to develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills, and critical thinking.

Because good writing skills are essential to a successful future, students will write a minimum of 9 assignments reflecting three different text types: narrative, argument, and synthesis essays in addition to a tenth writing assignment of a research paper.

**Course Objectives:**

Throughout this course, students will:

* analyze, discuss and respond both orally and in writing to a variety of genres including: short story, fiction, informational texts, poetry, essays, speeches, and drama.
* write a variety of short and long responses-- both timed and process.
* incorporate appropriate grammar, mechanics and vocabulary in all work.
* properly execute MLA format when writing.
* present poems, speeches, monologues and a variety of group and individual presentations.

All standards are aligned with the Common Core Standards for 12th grade.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1:** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

 [**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.3**](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/11-12/3/)**:** Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.2.B:** Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

[**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.4**](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/11-12/4/)**:** Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.

**Grading:**

* Your grade is calculated on a point system. Your quarter grade is determined by dividing the number of points earned by the total assigned points.
* Each assignment will be given a point value. The more points an assignment is worth the greater impact it has on your quarter grade.
* Your assignments will be classified into the following categories: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. (See Aspen for a list of possible examples of work for each category)
* All scores will be recorded in Aspen. All students and families will have access to their grades and assignments.
* If you have a question or concern about your grade, please see me before or after school.

**Assessments and Assignments:**

* **No credit (0) will be given for late homework.**
* All reading must be completed by assigned dates. Reading check quizzes are frequently given to measure reading completion and comprehension.
* Essays/long-term assignments are given a due date well in advance and students are expected to complete their work by said date. **Any assignment handed in after collection will receive a grade deduction of 10% per school day for up to three days. After three days, you will receive a final due date and receive a grade deduction of 50%.**
* Printer problems are not a valid excuse for late assignments. You can email your assignment saved as a word document (.doc), if necessary, to avoid a late deduction.
* If you are absent, please be advised that you are still responsible for the work you missed, this includes work that is due when you are gone. You must submit work that is due on your absence on the day you return. Be sure to check the website or email me for assignments that you may have missed while you were out.

**Other Required Materials:**

* An average of one independent reading book per month (student choice)
* Spiral notebook with at least 100 pages and a hard (plastic) cover.

**Independent Reading:**

This class relies on building enthusiasm for, and proficiency in, reading and writing. As a result, students will be allotted a great deal of freedom in their choice of independent reading material. You must monitor your child’s reading for objectionable content, as I will only check for reading level; I will **not** be policing content. Please contact your teacher with questions, concerns, or suggestions about the independent reading program.

**Attendance Policy:**

East Boston has a very strict attendance policy. Students who have ***four***or more unexcused absences will automatically receive an NC or fail for the term. A Student that cuts my class and fails to check in with me will receive an NC. It is vital that every student keeps track of his or her absences and returns notes in a timely fashion. Please work with your child to make sure he or she comes to class on time, as tardiness will result in disciplinary action and a lower conduct or overall grade (which can prevent Honor Roll status).  Any student who skips a class will not be allowed to make-up work, and further disciplinary action will ensue.

**Plagiarism Policy:**

Plagiarism is representing someone’s work as your own. It can also be a close representation or imitation of that work without acknowledging the source. If this occurs the following will happen: the assignment will become an automatic 0. The parent may be notified and a parent conference may take place.  Other consequences will follow.

**Here are a few additional policies and reminders to maximize our time on learning:**

* Be on time! You must be in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings.
* Be prepared! Wear your ID and bring your class materials.
* Be respectful! Listen and learn from others.
* Be considerate! Electronic device should not be on or visible during class. A teacher may ask you to put your phone on his or her desk if it is a distraction.
* Be neat! All drinks/food (besides water) are not allowed in classrooms.
* If you fail to meet the policies of the high school or the classroom, you will be subject to attend teacher-assigned detention. Should you fail to attend teacher-assigned detention, further disciplinary action will be taken.

**Extra Help:**

Extra help is always available. Students need only to set up an appointment or drop in during office hours. Teachers will meet with students or parents in one-to-one conferences about any issues with the class.  Students and families can also email me with any questions and are encouraged to frequently check the class webpage and/or Aspen x2 for daily homework, reminders and valuable resources.

*\* A copy of this syllabus will be posted in the classroom for future reference. Students and parents may also access additional copies on the class website. Signed copies will be kept on file.*

**Student & Parent/Guardian Information/Signature Page**

By completing and signing this page I affirm that I have read, discussed and understand the course syllabus for English at Somerville High School.

Student Name Printed:

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Student Signature:

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Student Email Printed:

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Parent/Guardian Name(s) Printed:

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Parent/Guardian phone number:

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Parent/Guardian Email Address Printed:

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