



Edison High School

2002-2003

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Mr. Jason Bronkar



PARENT INFORMATION

Contacting Mr. Bronkar

Please send an email message as a first contact. For personal attention, please stop by before zero period or after school.

Email Address jbronkar@edisonchargers.com
Phone Number (714) 962-1356 ext. 4127
Room Number 127 (Southwest Wing)

Information for Absent Students

If a student misses class or needs information about an assignment, a complete list of daily assignments and printable pdf files of handouts will be available online at my web page. A folder in the classroom will contain this information as well.

Web Address

www.cibacs.org/teacherpages/jbronkar/

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to prepare students to function as informed, productive citizens in our society and to realize personal fulfillment by reading the language of great literature and exploring the images, techniques and ideas of great writers. As the student reads the literature, he/she will attempt to discover its relevance to life and express thoughts about it both verbally and through various types of writing. The student will improve proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and critical thinking in relation to literature. Attention will be given to improving student grammar and vocabulary. Participation in class discussions and presentations is also an essential activity for each student who wishes to understand the literature and improve his/her communication skills.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Assignments (70%)

This category includes the following:

Writing tasks

quick write activities, creative stories and poems, and imitations of style

Oral presentation activities

discussions, role-playing skits, speeches, and debates

Group activities

posters, brainstorming tasks, and answering questions

Evaluative essays

research papers, interpretive essays, analytical essays and other types

Large projects

web pages, videos, and artistic representations of literature

Class Participation

answering questions, finding related news stories, handing back papers

All other classroom or homework assignments

Grammar Assignments (20%)

This grade concerns **improving the grammatical accuracy** of written assignments. **Half** of the points of all essays, research papers, short stories, and any other papers graded for grammar by the teacher will be based on grammar. Large essay assignments with low grammar scores can be rewritten within one week of the original due date for a better grammar grade. In addition, scores for grammar lessons taught in class will be included in this category.

Citizenship (10%)

This category is a reward for proper **behavior and attendance**. Students will receive ten points each day for arriving on time, placing the required materials on their desks, and showing a willingness to learn. Students with truancies will receive negative thirty points.

COURSE RULES

OVERVIEW

The class rules will reflect what is stated in the Edison High School Handbook and Academic Code of Honor. It is of the utmost importance that we **treat one another with dignity and respect**. Anyone who cannot do this after being warned will be sent outside and a call will be made to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). Further action consistent with the Honor Code will be taken if problems persist. The teacher will attempt to treat students with dignity and respect at all times as well.

Please see the student Handbook for information regarding the following:

Dress Code	pp. 1, 8-9
Pagers, cell phones, CD Players	p. 1
Internet policies	p. 1
Student Conduct	pp. 9-10
Academic Code of Honor	pp. 25-26

“It is of the utmost importance that we treat one another with dignity and respect.”

ATTENDANCE

Students who are consistently absent, truant, or tardy are typically the ones most likely to actually fail a class. Most students can manage at least a “C” if they attend and put in some effort. Frequent absences, whether excused or not, cause students to fall behind and often cost the teacher and other students additional time. For this reason, students who are absent are responsible for finding out what handouts were dispersed, what assignments were given, and what is due. Long vacations during the school year are a bad idea, especially if a student is struggling in a class. Scheduling doctor and dentist appointments during class time should be avoided if at all possible. Participation and citizenship grades are both negatively affected by poor attendance, so please do your best to show up regularly. Finally, remember that it is the student's responsibility to make up missing assignments after an absence or tardy.

“... remember that it is the student's responsibility to make up missing assignments after an absence or tardy.”

LATE WORK

Excused Late Work

Work that is late because of an excused absence will not be considered late; however, the student will have only an amount of time equal to the number of days the student has been absent to turn in the work. **The student is responsible for finding out what work was missed either by asking other students, by checking the folder in class which lists the previous day's activities, by checking the teacher's web site or by meeting with the teacher during the tutorial period.**

Work that is late because a student has received an extension ahead of time will not be considered late. The student must meet with the teacher during tutorial to provide reasons as to why the extension is needed. Both the validity of the reason for the extension and length of the extension will be determined by the teacher.

Unexcused Late Work

Work that is late, regardless of computer-related problems and most last minute complications, may only be turned in **with a late pass**. **Two** late passes will be given each semester.

Late passes will allow the student to turn in work **seven days from the original due date**. No work will be accepted for the quarter/semester after the last official day of the quarter/semester, even with a late pass. Late work **can only be handed in during tutorial period or**

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Due to a dramatic increase in cheating and plagiarism, the following English Department policy will be strictly enforced:

1st OFFENSE, PLAGIARISM - parent contact, zero on assignment,
10% off the student's semester grade
2nd OFFENSE, PLAGIARISM - parent contact, “F” for the semester

1st OFFENSE, OTHER CHEATING - zero on the assignment, report
in the student's file
2nd OFFENSE, OTHER CHEATING - zero on assignment, 10% off
semester grade, report in the
student's file

Please see the page of information that defines plagiarism and cheating at the end of this document

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

INFO FOR ABSENT STUDENTS

At the front of the room, there will be a folder with a list of assignments and handouts for every day of class. If a student is absent, he/she should ask two people and/or consult the folder notes **before** asking the teacher what work needs to be made up. The same information will be updated daily on the web page.

TUTORIAL

During every block schedule day between 8:00 and 8:26, the teacher will be available to discuss assignments and to give make-up tests. Because several students attend tutorial, little time usually remains for one-on-one discussions of essays or personal issues. Students, please schedule an appointment after school if you would like to have time to talk about class or other issues with fewer interruptions.

HOMEWORK

Students should expect an average of 1/2 hour to an hour of homework each night on non-deadline nights. Before major deadlines, students can make the time spent on major projects more manageable by getting started early. Essays and projects will be assigned several days ahead of time.

HALL PASSES

The teacher will provide four hall passes for each student per quarter, which may be used by students to go to their lockers or to the restroom. If these go unused, they may be redeemed for points at the end of the semester.

OTHER PROCEDURES

Students should be in their seats and ready to begin work when the tardy bell rings. Students will be **excused by the teacher**, not the bell. Students are **not to gather at the door** if they finish early. When the teacher asks for the attention of the students, the students should stop talking, look up at the teacher, and prepare to follow directions. Students should be aware of appropriate times to sharpen pencils, ask to use the restroom, etc. When students are speaking to the class or presenting projects, other students will be attentive and respectful to the speaker(s).

GRADES

All assignments will be given points that correspond to a letter grade. A percentage of points will determine the overall grade for each section. Grades are rounded to the nearest tenth (.1) and the **cutoff** percentages will be as follows:

A+	97	C+	77	F	0
A	94	C	74		
A-	90	C-	70		
B+	87	D+	67		
B	84	D	64		
B-	80	D-	60		

Students, please schedule an appointment after school to talk about class without interruptions.

"...expect an average of 1/2 hour to an hour of homework each night..."

GRADE REPORTS

Periodically, the students will see computerized **grade reports** posted in the room which show the assignments they have completed and the scores they received. **Parents or students may request a student printout at any time.**

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit may be earned in several ways:

- *Do more than is asked on assignments. Superior work merits extra points.
- *Create a song, diorama, drawing, ceramics project, video, etc. related to a novel we are studying. We can negotiate the point values of these.
- *Find a video, song, or news article related to a novel we are studying and analyze how it is related.
- *Earn participation points by sharing your homework and being actively involved in discussions and projects.

SUPPLIES

Notebook
Pen and Pencil
Paper
Calendar/Planner
Class Novel

Bring these items every day

WEB SITE

This web page is primarily useful for anyone who wishes to find information about missed classwork or homework. If you have a long-term absence for any reason, you may access the page for an adequate explanation of what is going on while you are not in class. It is, however, no substitute for actually being in class and you will be missing valuable information. Also, some discussions will be conducted online this year. The secondary purposes of the page involve getting information about the class, the teacher, and class policies.

Daily Assignments

This section will allow the student or parent to access a page which briefly describes assignments that were completed on a particular date. Updates to the current day's work will occur sometime after 2:00. Homework due dates and handouts that were dispersed will also be described. A person may print out "pdf" files of the handouts, which are exact, printable versions of the handouts created with Adobe Acrobat. You will need to download the **free** Adobe Reader if you do not already have it. Click on the date in the calendar in order to access the assignments for the days you missed.

Recent Handouts

In addition to attaching links to the handouts for each day, general handouts for writing, vocabulary, etc. will be included in this section.

PLAGIARISM

Overview

Last year, plagiarism was a troubling problem to several teachers. The cases were often obvious and intentional. Students were copying papers from the Internet, encyclopedias, and from friends who had taken the classes before. Even short stories were copied from other students and turned in as original work. Today, the basic attitude seems to be that everyone does this and that it is acceptable behavior. This is not true. In college, anyone caught committing plagiarism can be expelled and the information may be sent to other universities, which can mean that a person may never achieve his/her career goals. This is a potentially life-changing mistake. This year, the English department has agreed to enforce a strict policy in order to send a message that the practice of plagiarism is wrong and is a serious offense. See page one of this document for details.

Obvious Plagiarism

Copying an entire work such as a short story, an essay, or a research paper from another individual and trying to pass the work off as original is the most obvious type of plagiarism. Even if a friend gives permission, it is still illegal and unethical. This type of plagiarism, which requires very little thought or effort, is the most common. It is also quite easy to detect.

Course Information

A description of course rules, procedures, and activities.

CIBACS Information

CIBACS is a business-related academy at Edison. This section will discuss upcoming events and projects of the junior year.

Online Discussions

This is a page where students can go to answer questions and debate about literature by posting messages.

Contact Mr. Bronkar

Email, phone, and room number information.

Student Work

Digital photos of projects and student essays, poems and short stories will be displayed in this section.

Links

A list of suggested sites, including grammar pages, author pages, and pages useful in writing research papers

*Access the web site for Mr. Bronkar's classes
at www.cibacs.org/teacherpages/jbronkar/*

Less Obvious Cases

Taking a section of a story, essay, etc. **without citing the source with a parenthetical reference** is illegal. If one gives credit to the original author, (typically using MLA or APA formats) this is not plagiarism.

Using someone else's original **idea**, which is **not** common knowledge, without giving credit to the original author is plagiarism. Even if the person's idea is not an exact quote, the original source must be cited. However, if the idea is typically known and widely documented, (e.g. Columbus sailed to the West in 1492) a source need not be cited.

Many people think that changing the words of an encyclopedia means that it is no longer plagiarism. Some may also think that copying from several sources makes the paper original. Neither of these assumptions is true. Looking at an encyclopedia, essay, short story, etc. and **changing the words** while keeping the same general structure to the ideas, is plagiarism. This is an imitation of the style of an author and, therefore, closely resembles his/her original idea; therefore, this is considered plagiarism. Also, if several sources are used, credit must be given to each source with parenthetical references and a works cited page.

I affirm that I have read and understood this document:

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____