



Edison High School

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS 2007-08

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 the web page below.

Teacher Web Address

www.cibacs.org/teacherpages/jbronkar/

CIBACS Web Address

www.cibacs.org/FasTrak/

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 (90%)

This category includes the following:

Essays/Written Reports

Students will write several types of essays at home and in class, usually based on the novels read in class. Each essay will have at least one prompt, often more. The prompts will include rubrics which show the students the criteria for the final grade of the essay. Students who do not complete major essays or who need improvement in their writing skills will have difficulty in receiving a high grade in the class. Approximately half of the grade of each essay will be based on grammar and spelling. Students may rewrite major essays if they first make an appointment and meet with the teacher to discuss what changes should be made to the writing.

Other 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

Large projects

web pages, videos, and artistic representations of literature

Grammar Assignments

small assignments designed to improve grammatical accuracy

Class Participation

answering questions, finding related news stories, handing back papers

Silent Reading

reading time will be allotted at the start of every block period

All other classroom and homework assignments will be included in this category

Preparedness (10%)

Students who arrive on time with all materials will receive ten points for each day of class. Students who are late or do not have materials will lose that day's ten points. Those who are truant will lose thirty points. Students can make up points from absences, tardies, missing materials, and/or trancies by attending tutorial. One full working tutorial (1/2 hour) will be worth ten points. At the end of the quarter, this percentage of points will be 10% of each student's overall grade.

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:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bell Schedules; Attendance Procedures | pp. 5; 13-18 |
| Dress Code | pp. 26-27 |
| Rules of Student Conduct | pp. 9-12; 19-25 |
| Academic Code of Honor | p. 9-11 |

“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 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 detrimental, 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 students should do their 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, checking the teacher's web site or 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 allowed each semester. Late passes will allow the student to turn in work **seven days from the original due date**, unless the teacher specifies that late passes will not be accepted for a given assignment. 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 **should be handed in during tutorial period or before school** so that class time is not interrupted.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Due to recent increases in cheating and plagiarism, the following policy will be strictly enforced:

1st OFFENSE, PLAGIARISM - parent contact, zero on assignment, 10% off the student's semester grade, report in student's cumulative file

2nd OFFENSE, PLAGIARISM - parent contact, report in student's cumulative file, “F” for the semester

1st OFFENSE, OTHER CHEATING - zero on the assignment, report in the student's cumulative file

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

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

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

INFO FOR ABSENT STUDENTS

On the teacher's web page at www.cibacs.org/teacherpages/jbronkar students will find 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 web page **before** asking the teacher what work needs to be made up. Students may also email the teacher or come in during tutorial for further assistance.

TUTORIAL

During every block schedule day 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 may schedule an appointment after school if they 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

A hall pass with the teacher's name on it will be located near the door. Students must use the hall pass whenever leaving the room during class time. As long as the students are not disruptive and the teacher is aware that a student is leaving the room, students may use the hall pass at their convenience.

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** when 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, 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 may schedule an appointment after school ... to talk about class or other issues with fewer 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. **Grades will also be posted online and will be updated about every two weeks.** Parents can access the Internet in order to track their student's progress in relation to grades and attendance.

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.

Note: Total Extra Credit points will be limited to 3% of the overall grade.

SUPPLIES

Notebook
Pen and Pencil
Paper
Calendar/Planner
Class Novel

Bring these items every day

WEB SITE

This web page is primarily useful for those who wish to find information about missed classwork or homework. If a student has a long-term absence for any reason, he/she may access the page for an adequate explanation of what is going on while he/she is not in class. It is, however, no substitute for actually being in class: the student will be missing valuable information. The secondary purpose of the page is to provide information about the class, the teacher, and class policies. Also, some discussions will be conducted online this year.

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

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. The student will need to download the **free** Adobe Reader in order to view the pdf files if he/she does not already have Adobe Acrobat. Click on the date in the calendar in order to access the assignments for the days 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.

CIBACS Information

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

*These are the sections of
the website*

Course Information

A description of course rules, procedures, and activities.

Contact Mr. Bronkar

Email, phone, and room number information.

Online Discussions

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

Links

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

Student Work

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

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a troubling problem to several teachers. Cases are often obvious and intentional. Some students copy papers from the Internet, encyclopedias, and from friends who have taken the classes before. Even short stories are copied from other students and turned in as original work. The basic attitude of the offenders 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. 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 two of this document for the specific policy in relation to plagiarism and cheating.

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.

Less Obvious Cases of Plagiarism

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 still plagiarism. This is an imitation of the style and thoughts of an author and, therefore, closely resembles his/her original creation; therefore, this is considered plagiarism. Also, if several sources are used by a student in creating an assignment, credit must be given to each source with parenthetical references and a works cited page.

Please cut along the dotted line and return to Mr. Bronkar for credit.

I affirm that I have read and understood Mr. Bronkar's Course Expectations:

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____