



Class Policies and Procedures ♦ 2015-2016

Patterns of Human Experience – Honors

Ms. Carlino

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Welcome...to 9th grade Honors English.

Objective: In taking this class, you aim to

become the best reader, writer, and thinker you can be in preparation for the classes you'll continue to take in your tenure here at Great Valley. If you are in this class for any reason other than those, perhaps you should reconsider. You will be pushed and challenged to improve your skills and find meaning in Classic Literature that has shaped our world views. Be prepared to work but ultimately be fulfilled by that work.

Philosophy: In this class, we believe that

- Writing is an everyday thing;
- literature is the language of life;
- analysis of the world around us makes us better participants in that world.
- honor and integrity serve as the basis for all conduct and decision making in class.
- **Some things will be challenging, but there is nothing we cannot surmount together.**

Materials Needed: *Every day*, please bring your

- **3-ring Binder with divider tabs:** You will be responsible for maintaining an organized binder for this class. Tabs should be: <Current Unit> (this will change depending on unit); Writing; Vocab; Outside Reading. You are expected keep all materials we use; we will refer to them at other times during the course and you will need them to prepare for your midterms/finals. If in doubt, SAVE IT!!!
- **Writer's Notebook:** You will use your notebook EVERY DAY, so it is essential that you bring it. More to come on this...
- **Vocabulary book, Level E**
- **Note-taking tools such as: post-its, highlighters, note cards**

Expectations

1. **Be invested in the class and work hard.** You are here to become the best reader, writer, and thinker you can be in preparation for the rest of your schooling and most important, for LIFE. You will be pushed and challenged to improve your skills and find meaning in the ideas and literature that have shaped our world views. Be prepared to work, but ultimately be fulfilled by that work.
2. **Be present in the moment.** Time is limited, and there is opportunity in every situation. Use it.
3. **Show respect. Always.**
 - I will respect you as you respect me and others. Please show respect for yourself, for others, for school property, and for the learning process.
 - Be Prompt, Prepared, and Polite. Listen attentively and speak in a manner appropriate for the classroom; foul language will not be tolerated.
4. **Communicate openly and honestly (and respectfully!).** Whether in written or verbal form, this is a key to success both personally and professionally. I cannot help if I don't know what's happening, so please come to me with any needs, concerns, questions, and of course, celebrations.

Policies

Absences and Make-Up Work:

It is your responsibility to ask about and make up work you've missed due to absence. If you are absent, you have two days for each day you were absent during which to make up your work. If you are absent on a day when something is due, it is due immediately upon your return unless you make other arrangements with me.

Late Work:

- Late **homework** is unacceptable. If you don't have your homework, it will be a zero.
- Late **writing** work will be penalized 10% for each day it is late. This includes weekends and holidays.
- Email submissions will not be accepted.

Technology:

Technology, or "kütyü" in Hungarian, is a wonderful and beneficial part of all of our lives. But, in order to be fully present in class, it is necessary to disconnect and focus on the task at hand. Therefore:

- No iPods/iTouches/iAnythings: This includes no visible headphones.
- No cell phones in class, before, during, or after.
- Use of a personal laptop, tablet, or e-reader must be pre-approved.
- Use of any device as an assignment pad/planner must be pre-approved.

The response for all inappropriate use of technological devices: I see it, I take it. First offense, you can get it at the end of the day. For a second offense, the phone goes to the office. Any subsequent offenses warrant a phone call home and a detention. **Learn to be fully present in the activities around you!**

Also: You must learn to be a responsible digital citizen. Any and all work completed online for class is an extension of yourself *and* the class; your contributions should be commensurate with that responsibility.

Turnitin.com:

One of the mechanisms Great Valley High School uses to diminish the temptation to plagiarize is Turnitin.com. You will need to have an email address which is unique to you (meaning you don't share it with your parents or siblings) and which you check regularly. If you don't already have an email address and do not know how to set up one at a reputable service like Gmail or Yahoo, please see us and we will be happy to help.

We will register for the class on the website, and then you keep track of the email address and password you use to access your account. Once you create your own account, we can't give you your password or login information.

To Register, use the class ID # _____ Please record the email address under which you
Class Password = _____ registered: _____

Grading

Each marking period, students will be assessed in a variety of ways, but the final grades will be calculated according to the following categories and weights.

Writing	40%	Homework	15%
Tests/Quizzes/Projects	30%	Class Participation	15%

Students are expected to be aware of their grades and to discuss any concerns they have with me as they arise.

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

William Butler Yeats

Communication

- The more we talk to each other, the better this year will go. If you have any questions about what we are doing, or if you need to talk to someone, do not hesitate to come see me.
- You can also email me if you need to at bcarlino@gvsd.org. However, remember that email correspondence to your teacher is formal writing. Therefore, do your best to follow the conventions of formal writing: open with a greeting, type the message using standard English including correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization, and close with your full name. Emails not following standard conventions will be returned unanswered. Composing messages appropriate to the recipient and purpose is an important life skill!

Lastly...what are we doing this year?!

Units of Study

1. **Mythology:** *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton; *Mythology and You* by Rosenberg and Baker; *The Perilous Journey* by W.T. Jewkes; *The Trojan War: The Greeks and the Trojans* by Evslin; *The Odyssey* by Homer
2. **Drama:** *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
3. **Novel:** *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
4. **Vocabulary:** You will define assigned vocabulary words and demonstrate the ability to use the words correctly. The *Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop Level E* will be used.
5. **Writing:** Throughout the year we will be writing various themes, including myths, biographic reports, and critical responses to literature. Additionally, we will be focusing on certain areas of grammar in order to improve the writing process.
6. **Outside Reading:** Over the course of the year, you will read at least three books outside of class. You will be assessed on your knowledge of your chosen book as part of your grade.

Contract Agreement

Parents and Students, please sign below indicating that you have read and are aware of the information on this document, Class Policies and Procedures. This is due _____. If you have questions about anything it contains – from how checked homework assignments are handled to how turnitin.com works, or anything in between – please contact me to discuss it.

I have read and am aware of the class policies and procedures for Ms. Carlino 9th grade English class.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature