

HSPVA 2017-2018 English II Pre-Advanced Placement

Ms. Gabriela Diaz

www.worldhumanities.org

Three rules: Ms. Diaz's expectations of behavior in her class:

- When someone is talking, listen.
- Engage your brain.
- Bring your stuff.

Three goals: This year, we continue to strengthen the following skills:

- Reading: analyzing complex works for their overarching message (theme/thesis)
- Writing: both constructing and deconstructing messages
- Research: learning how to learn

Three roads to theme:

- Characters
- Patterns
- Conflicts

Three components of rhetoric:

- Purpose
- Speaker
- Audience

Three steps of research:

- Inquire
- Investigate
- Incorporate

Two types of grades: Generally, every grading-cycle will include a baseline of the assessments listed below. Essays and unit exams are broken down into four separate full grades. Smaller assessments, like reading checks, will be worth half of a grade. These "weight" distinctions will be included in the name of assignments in the gradebook, for example: "Lord of the Flies Chapter 3 Reading Check (.5)" or "Lord of the Flies Timed Writing: Evidence (1)." Every now and then, we may practice a skill or take mock test that I'd like to display in the gradebook, but that will not affect your score. These grades will be "weighted" 0 and will show up as "STAAR Practice Exam (0)."

- An **essay:**
 1. Thesis statement & Topic sentences
 2. Evidence
 3. Analysis
 4. Style and Structure
- A **unit exam:**
 1. Words
 2. Writing 101
 3. Reading 101
 4. Research 101
- **Spot Checks:**
 1. Research spot checks
 2. Content spot checks
 3. Reading checks

Make-up policy:

If students miss school, it is their responsibility to make-up material as quickly as possible to avoid a snowball stressful situation. The class website's **Calendar page** is the best source of information about what you missed. If a student is absent, but a reading check is due on the day they return, it is expected that the reading be completed. Requests to make-up assessments should be made through the **Contact Me** page on the class website. Verbal agreements will evaporate faster than a spilled soda on a Houston sidewalk in August. Ms. Diaz won't remember the conversation; email instead!

Re-assessment policy:

Students may re-assess any essay or unit exam grade within one week of that assessment for an average of the two grades, unless the average is lower than the original grade. While students may choose to re-assess only certain sections of any unit exam, to re-assess any portion of an essay, a new essay must be written. Students may never re-asses spot checks or reading checks.

Cheating policy: The following policy was designed by the academic teachers of HSPVA:

Academic honesty is an integral component of a student's education. All graded academic exercises, including homework, quizzes, tests, essays, research papers and projects, are expected to be conducted individually and completed as the student's original work unless otherwise instructed. The consequences of not adhering to this policy are **a zero as the final grade** for the assignment (with a requirement to still complete the assignment/essay), a **"P" in conduct for poor** for that marking period, and **administrative referral**.

Homework: There is no homework. Really. Besides reading whatever literature I've assigned for a unit and studying your cumulative list of words, there is no homework.

Reading: Just like the transition from middle school to 9th grade, you can expect to tackle more challenging works of literature. From ancient texts like *The Iliad* to modern slam poetry, we will practice analyzing for literary and rhetorical devices, but always leading to an overarching conversation about theme: what is the author's message about the human condition? All works will help us contemplate, "What does it mean to be human?"

Writing: In order to best prepare you to consider tackling AP Language and Composition and/or AP Literature and Composition, we will explore all aspects of these intimidating exams. Together, we will practice both rhetorical and literary analysis timed writing prompts. The essay style for English II STAAR is a persuasive essay.

Research: Students will conduct several small-scale research essays. With more frequent practice and exposure, we can make skills like incorporating internal documentation and creating a works cited page second nature.

Contact me: the best way to contact Ms. Diaz is through the **Contact Diaz** link of the class website.

Ms. Diaz's Schedule:

1st period: English II P-AP
2nd period: English II P-AP
3rd period: CONFERENCE
4th period: English II P-AP
5th period: English II

6th period: English II P-AP
7th period: English II
8th period: CONFERENCE
9th period: English II P-AP

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Purpose of our course: Learn to be more human.