

Zama High School

English 10

2012–2013 Course Syllabus/Policies & Procedures

English II Course Description

English II is a diverse, year-long world literature course designed to provide integrated educational experiences in reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking and language. Course objectives include, but are not limited to:

- focusing on the concept of culture and community and how these influences shape identity and perspective;
- reading and analyzing works of world literature with emphasis on analysis of how choices in stylistic elements and rhetorical appeals shape tone in writing persuasive and argumentative texts;
- gaining experience deconstructing writing prompts and practicing skills of writing synthesis essay that incorporates perspectives from multiple sources; and
- developing independent learning skills as the student responds to opportunities for self-evaluation.

Time Frames	Units of Study	Essential Questions
Weeks 1-7	<i>Unit 1: Voices of Modern Culture</i>	How can cultural experiences shape, impact or influence our perception of the world? What gives good writing a “voice”?
Weeks 8-14	<i>Unit 2: Cultural Conversations</i>	How do external factors affect one’s sense of identity? How do we synthesize multiple resources into a cohesive argument?
Weeks 15-21	<i>Unit 3: Community</i>	How can an author use a work of fiction to make a statement about culture? How might the cultural fabric of a community be stretched or altered when it encounters new ideas and members?
Weeks 22-28	<i>Unit 4: Justice</i>	What is the nature of justice? How does one construct a persuasive argument?
Weeks 29-35	<i>Unit 5: Building Cultural Bridges</i>	How do cultural differences contribute to conflicts over environmental issues? What is the value of self-reflection in preparing for one’s future?
Week 36	Course Review and Final Exam	How will I know what I’ve learned this year?

Units of Study

During the year, we will tackle five units of study. Each unit will take about six weeks to complete and will include readings, writings and activities incorporating poetry, short stories, essays, novels, plays and film. The objective of each unit is to give you the opportunity to experience aspects of culture.

By the time we complete each unit, you should be able to answer the essential questions and complete two embedded assessments, which allow you to apply what you've learned in each unit to produce written products and/or visual displays. Here are the units of study and their corresponding embedded assessments:

Unit of Study	Embedded Assessments
Unit 1 <i>Voices of Modern Culture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating an Artistic Representation of Your Culture• Presenting Two of Your Voices
Unit 2 <i>Cultural Conversations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing About a Cultural Conflict• Writing a Synthesis Paper
Unit 3 <i>Community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researching and Comparing Communities• Writing a Literary Analysis
Unit 4 <i>Justice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composing a Persuasive Text• Creating a Living Tableau
Unit 5 <i>Building Cultural Bridges</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presenting a Solution to an Environmental Conflict• Presenting Your Portfolio

Embedded assessments are considered major grades, so it is important that you complete them on time and present them to the class in a professional manner. Major texts for reading will be provided to you, and you will be expected to keep a reading journal for each major text we will read. Although we will conduct close readings during class, you will be expected to keep up with outside reading assignments. In order to check on reading assignments, you will be required to write short responses to teacher- and student-generated prompts.

Textbooks

The primary material for this class is drawn from handouts I will provide. As time permits, we will pull materials and lessons from other sources. You will also have access to copies of *Elements of Literature (World Literature)*, which are stored in my classroom. You will be responsible for any and all assignments.

I maintain a classroom library of books on a variety of topics that you are invited to check out for your own enjoyment, research and ideas. You are also expected to use various handouts to prepare for assessments. You will be instructed on how to download materials from a wikispace devoted to English 10.

Policies and Procedures

General Expectations:

- All school rules will be strictly enforced. All cellphones and electronic devices must be turned off and stowed **before** you enter the classroom. The use of such devices in the classroom is strictly prohibited. You will be warned about this policy on the first day of school.
- Be ready for class to begin at the end of the tardy bell. Tardiness is not tolerated.
- The *Word of the Day*, *Daily Language Practice* and *Daily Writing Prompt* will be posted on the whiteboard every day. All three items must be entered in your notebook every day. This is a graded assignment.
- Note the daily agenda and daily objectives posted on the whiteboard. This lets you know what we'll be working on and what's due that day.
- Please let me know about your Internet access at home. You may have to visit the Media Center to complete assignments and download course materials.
- Do your work and behave properly in class at all times. It is important for teachers to correspond with parents and guardians, and I enjoy contacting parents and guardians to share praise for your good work. I will also contact parents and guardians to report lack of progress and/or misbehavior.

Assignments:

- All assignments are due on the due date. If you are absent, ask a friend to bring the assignment to me. Keep me informed of upcoming planned absences.
- Assignments turned in one day late result in a 20 percent penalty; two days late results in a 30 percent penalty; three days late results in a 50 percent penalty. Anything turned in more than three days late will earn no more than 25 percent of the assigned points. You will always receive partial credit for late work. Note that an excuse note does not excuse late work.
- Be sure to write your name and period number on every assignment you submit. Any work submitted without a name will not be graded.
- It is your responsibility to get make-up work. The day you return from an absence, you must present a written signed excuse to receive your missed assignment(s). You may also check the calendar upon returning to class for missed assignments.
- Time for tutoring is each morning from 7:00-7:15 **by appointment only**.
- You are urged to save **all** graded work until grades are posted for each quarter. All graded written work must be saved in chronological order in a portfolio kept in the classroom.

Grading System:

Grades will be based on an accumulation of all graded work in the following categories:

Category	Weight	Grading Scale
Embedded Assessments	20%	A 90-100%
Homework/Classwork	15%	B 80-89%
Tests/Quizzes	20%	C 70-79%
Written Assignments	25%	D 60-69%
Group Assignments	10%	F 59% and below
Final Exams (semester exams only)	10%	

Occasionally, you may be offered a chance to earn extra credit. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to improve your grade.

Plagiarism:

Academic honesty and integrity are paramount values. All forms of plagiarism receive a zero. In the case of inappropriate collaboration, both students receive a zero for that assignment. Forms of plagiarism include (but are not limited to):

- Any assignment in which answers copied from another student.
- Journal assignments in which sections copied or paraphrased from another student's work
- Recycling your own writing from past teachers
- Using someone else's words or ideas without giving credit

Required Supplies and Materials:

- A three-ring binder for class notes, Word of the Day, Daily Writing Prompt and Daily Language Practice
- Loose-leaf college-ruled note paper
- 3x5 or 4x6 note cards
- Blue or black pens and several pencils, markers and post-it notes
- A flash drive is optional but strongly suggested

Manuscript Requirements:

- Type size and type face is 12-pt Times New Roman only
- MLA format only (*you will learn how to use this format*)
- Your name in the upper-right corner of each page
- Titles centered at top margin of first page
- Single staple in upper left corner.
- Do not submit papers in binders.
- Double space all written work except your journal
- Be sure to keep an electronic version of all submitted papers for your protection

Class Participation

You are expected to participate properly in class. **Proper participation** includes taking part in class discussions, showing respect for your teacher and peers, displaying leadership qualities, reading aloud and waiting your turn to talk.

Improper participation includes sleeping in class, refusing to take part in classroom activities, excessive tardies, unexcused absences, cellphone and music device violations, and showing disrespect toward teachers and/or classmates.

Request for Homework

Feel free to schedule a parent/teacher conference through the guidance department. Requests in advance for homework may only be made by a parent/guardian and only when

the student will be absent for five consecutive days due to an acceptable, excused absence. Parents are asked to call the school between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. to arrange this accommodation.

Contacting Your Instructor

I make every attempt to be available to our students. On most days, I arrive early and stay late. If you need help in this class, I will

arrange time before school, after school, during lunch or during our planning period to meet with you.