

**Course Outline
English I Honors
Mrs. Steimer
Plano High School**

**Email: rasteimer@plano88.org (Don't forget the "a"!)
English Honors I Syllabus
2008-2009**

Welcome to English Honors I! I am excited to be your teacher for this challenging class. You are probably in this accelerated class because:

1. you enjoy and have a flair for reading and writing,
2. you like English,
3. you care about getting good grades, and
4. you don't mind a challenge.

As an honors student you should expect to work harder than you would if you were in a regular English I class, and it is my job to challenge you to try your hardest. In addition to readings from your textbook, you will read independent novels, study grammar and vocabulary, and write essays and a research paper.

Class Expectations:

You are expected to treat me and others with respect. Disrespect to me or others will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

You are expected to come to class prepared everyday. That means you should bring your

- Agenda (It's your hall pass.)
- Textbook (Most of the assignments are in there.)
- Writing utensil (Use pen or pencil for daily work, but I prefer to read pen.)
- Notebook (You will need it to take copious notes.)
- Folder of returned papers (Use these for study or as a "receipt" of work done. SAVE ALL PAPERS)
- Homework assignment (See the late policy.)
- Loose leaf paper (Complete homework assignments on loose leaf paper. I subtract one point from your grade if you hand in work with "fringies".)
- Glasses (if you wear them)

Other Items:

- Being "prepared" also means you should not sleep or eat in class. You may chew gum, as long as it stays in your mouth, and drink water.
- Being "prepared" also means showing up to class on time. Refer to the tardy policy in the PHS handbook.
- Bathroom and Locker passes: You may have three passes per semester. Please block out three pass sections in your agenda. Use PEN to record any passes. If you have used all of your passes and you must leave, you may, but you will make up that time after school. Any passes left over may be used as extra credit for your final exam!
- Cell Phones and other electronic devices must remain off and out of sight. Refer to the PHS Handbook for the cell phone and electronic device policy.

Paper Formatting:

Typing: Essays should be typed unless you talk to me in advance (within 24 hours). I do not expect you to have a computer and printer at home. The PHS library is available before and after school, and you can also utilize the Plano Public Library.

**Course Outline
English I Honors
Mrs. Steimer
Plano High School**

Printing: If you cannot print your paper, email it to a friend and have him or her print it. As a last resort, you may also email it to me, and I will be glad to print it for you. You must send the paper as an attachment. Don't copy and paste it into your email or you will lose all of the formatting. If you don't know how to send an attachment, ask me. My email address is at the top of the syllabus. Of course, it is easiest for you and me if you find a way to print your essay yourself.

Use MLA (Modern Language Association) formatting to hand in your papers. Below is an example of MLA format:

Last Name 1
Your Name
My Name
Class
Date
Title
Indent the first paragraph. You also need a header in the upper right corner with your last name and the page number. Do not forget to double space. Use Times New Roman or a similar font, size 12. Notice that the title of your paper is in plain text—not italics or quotations.

Late Policy:

I expect you to turn in your work on time. It is due when I collect it, usually at the beginning of the class period. If you do not hand in your work when I ask for it you will only receive half credit (50%). This policy includes assignments that are completed during class *after* I have collected them because I don't want you to work so hard on late work that you miss what is being covered during class.

Extra Credit Policy:

Students may not earn extra credit unless all of their assignments are handed in. Extra credit will not be offered on an individual basis. Occasionally throughout the year I will offer extra credit to the entire class, but only students who have no missing work may complete the extra credit.

**Course Outline
English I Honors
Mrs. Steimer
Plano High School**

Month	Reading Comprehension Emphasis	Independent Reading	Skills Emphasis	Collection Theme	Writing Emphasis	Reading Assignments
August-September	Predicting		Plot structure, foreshadowing	1. Into the Unknown : Plot and Setting 2. On Your Own: Character	Autobiographical Narrative	“Initiation” “The Most Dangerous Game” “Marigolds” “Thank You, M’am” “To Helen”
October	Summarizing	1 st Novel Analysis Due	Cause and effect, visualizing a story	3. Truth and Consequences: Narrator and Voice	Analyzing Nonfiction	“The Interlopers” “The Cask of Amontillado” Begin <i>House on Mango Street</i>
November	Summarizing (cont.) Connecting		Drawing conclusions, synthesis of information on a single topic, understanding plot and subplot, author/historical analysis	Novel Studies 8. Crossing Borders: Literary Criticism: Evaluating Style	Analyzing a Work of Fiction	<i>House on Mango Street (Cont.)</i> Begin <i>Of Mice and Men</i>
December	Connecting (Cont.)	2 nd Novel Analysis Due	Inferences from details, identifying the main idea	Novel Studies 6. Ties That Bind: Symbolism and Allegory	Analyzing a Work of Fiction	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>
January	Questioning		Analyzing primary and secondary sources, summarizing, making inferences	Novel Study 9. Turning Points: Literary Criticism Biographical and Historical Approach (Review from Honors Freshman Academy)	Research Paper	<i>Cold Sassy Tree</i>
February	Inferring		Analyzing and evaluating an author’s argument, intent and tone, MLA formatting, how to cite sources	Novel Study 12. Creating Computer Games: Consumer and Workplace Documents	Research Paper	<i>Cold Sassy Tree, Cont.</i> <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>

**Course Outline
English I Honors
Mrs. Steimer
Plano High School**

				(Review from Honors Freshman Academy)		
March	Imaging	3 rd Novel Analysis Due	Cause and effect, monitoring comprehension	10. Heroes and Monsters: Epic and Myth	Persuading with Cause and Effect	<i>The Odyssey</i>
April			Drama as a form, paraphrasing speeches, synthesis of several sources	11. Can This Be Love? Drama	Comparing a Play and a Film	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
May		4 th Novel Analysis Due	Poetic devices, figurative language	7. Imagine: Poetry	Analyzing a Poem	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> cont. Selected Poems

Assessment:

Students will be assessed through essays, tests, short-term and long-term projects, study guides, homework, daily reading, and class participation.

Skills:

Students should take this class if they have above grade level reading skills, teacher recommendation, and a desire to work hard. Students will be reading most of the English I assignments, with the addition of two in-class novels and an independent novel each quarter. Because of the intensity of reading and writing for this class, students' semester grades are weighted. After students complete this class, students with a non-weighted grade of A or B will take English II Honors. Students with a non-weighted grade of C or D will be recommended for English II. Students who fail English I Honors will take English I. Students should exit this class with sharpened reading and writing skills that will prepare them to excel in other honors classes and in college.

Please read the syllabus, sign below, and return it to Mrs. Steimer by week two of classes. (10 pts).

I have read and understand the syllabus for English I Honors.

_____ student signature

_____ date

_____ parent/legal guardian signature

_____ date

Printed Name _____

Phone: Home: () _____

Work: () _____

**Course Outline
English I Honors
Mrs. Steimer
Plano High School**

Email address (optional):