



Contact Information

Room: C-14

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Website: <http://xrl.us/misstan>

Hours: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm or by appointment

Course Objectives

- This course offers students challenging experiences with genre-based American, British, World, and Contemporary works of literature. Students will read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature.
- The central purpose of this course is to introduce students to themes across the genres; to analyze characters and plot; to identify and explain literary devices. Students will develop skills and strategies to write and speak with a command of standard English conventions.
- Students are given the opportunity to complete tasks individually and in small and large group situations. Students will also demonstrate familiarity and proficiency with use of technology.

Classroom Expectations

1. Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings. Place your belongings on the floor or behind you.
2. Come to class prepared. Have everything you need: pencil, pen, paper, textbook, homework.
3. No food or drinks allowed during class.
4. Do not groom yourselves during class.
5. No cell phones, iPods, or other mp3 players.
6. No work from other classes.
7. Keep it clean... in every way! Keep your surroundings and your language clean.
8. Respect everyone. Do not talk while the teacher is talking. No sleeping in class. Raise your hand.

Reading List

- *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
- *The Odyssey*, Homer
- *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- *The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros
- Selections of short stories
- Selections of poetry

Grading Policy

Grade categories are *weighted*, according to the following breakdown. I DO NOT ROUND GRADES.

Homework/Classwork 10%

Tests/Quizzes 30%

Essays 30%

Projects 15%

Participation 15%

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or lower

Homelink

The best way to be successful in any class is to learn to keep track of your own progress. Make sure you and your parents create an account with *Homelink*, where you can access my gradebook and your grades at any time. If you feel there is a discrepancy between the grade I have for you and your own record-keeping, please let me know. I update grades on a weekly basis. Do yourself a favor and check it regularly.

<https://homelink.rowland.k12.ca.us/abi>

Class Procedures

1. **Bell Activity**, consisting of vocabulary and grammar review, will be assigned daily. You are expected to come to class with the worksheet ready and prepared to go into “work mode.” On certain days, when we are very busy, you will receive “Freebies.”
 - 1.1. *Vocabulary Mondays*: You will receive five vocabulary words to define. For homework, you must write original sentences using the vocabulary word.
 - 1.2. *Quickwrite Tuesdays*: You will write for about 5 minutes, about a given prompt.
 - 1.3. *Grammar We Th*: You must copy down the incorrect sentence and rewrite it with the correction.
 - 1.4. *Quiz Fridays*: Every Friday, there will a Vocabulary Quiz on the word list received on that week’s Monday.
 - 1.5. You will turn in this worksheet at the beginning of the period every other Friday. If you are absent on any given day, it is *your* responsibility to get the missing work from a classmate in order to receive full credit for this weekly assignment.
2. **Participation points** will count for a portion of your grade. Sometimes, this could be the difference between one letter grade and another.
 - 2.1. Positive participation in the classroom will earn points. Behavior such as joining class discussions, contributing positively during group work, being helpful, are considered positive participation.
 - 2.2. Likewise, negative behavior will result in losing participation points. I like to stress that every action you take has a consequence. It is your choice, whether you want it to be a positive or a negative one.
3. **Bathroom passes** will be issued to every student—four per semester. If you go over your allotted number of bathroom passes, participation points will be deducted.
4. **No name, no credit.**

Tardies and Absences

You must come to class on time, prepared for the day’s lesson. The English Department tardy policy is as follows:

1st and 2nd offenses = Participation point deduction
3rd and 4th offenses = Lunch detention
5th and 6th offenses = Saturday detention
7+ offenses = Referral

Make-up and Late Work Policy

It is *your* responsibility to make up any work missed due to excused absences (illness, activity, etc.). You have *one school day* to make up assignments for each excused absence. If you miss a test, it is *your* responsibility to have the test made up *within a week of your absence*. You may not make up a test that is older than a week old. You need to make yourself available for make-up tests, and arrange a time with me.

Homework must be turned in (or stamped) *at the beginning of class*. Work that is turned in after is considered late, and will only count for half credit. This policy applies when you are tardy: if you are late, so is your homework. No credit is given to work more than a day late.