

**English 3-4 (Accelerated)**  
**Michael McAvin**

**Course Description**

As the name suggests, English 3-4 honors is a two-semester college preparatory class for students who want to push themselves even harder as they explore the world of English-Language Arts. The class will focus on literature interpretation from multiple genres (poetry, short stories, song lyrics, novels, etc.) and students will study the literature of Western Civilization from Shakespearean times to the modern era, in order to refine and improve their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

**Course Objectives**

A work of literature – without an active reader – is merely a collection of words. Literature needs a reader to interact and react with the words, ideas, and emotions, contained in the work. Thus, one of the primary objectives of this course is to instill within all students a willingness to interact with literature. While exploring the different elements of the different genres of literature (prose fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama) you also explore your own individual sensitivities to the work and to the world that the material explores.

Another objective of this class is to teach students to look beyond what takes place in a story and delve deeper into a work's message and purpose. Students will also explore the different techniques authors use to create compelling works of fiction. This class is also designed to help students become better, more thoughtful writers, both in their interpretation and evaluation of literature, and in their ability to create their own voice and style in their own original works of fiction.

**Student Objective**

The objective for all English students at Mira Costa High School is to achieve the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLR's) by demonstrating proficiency in the areas of reading; writing; listening and speaking as described in the Reading/Language Arts Framework for California Public Schools and the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. Within each area, students must provide evidence of proficiency that will serve as benchmarks demonstrating proficiency expected from 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Teacher Mission Statement**

My mission as a teacher is to provide a learning environment and facilitate a learning process that will help students achieve Mira Costa's Expected Schoolwide Learning Results set forth by the administration, faculty, and staff at Mira Costa. The ESLR's for all students include being effective communicators; critical thinkers; problem solvers; socially responsible citizens; and self-directed learners.

**Classroom Expectations**

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

Each student is expected to:

- **Be respectful.** This means a respect for teachers, students and school property, as well as free thought and opinions, individual identity, and the learning environment of you and your peers. Any behavior that undermines a comfortable and successful learning environment or otherwise impedes the learning process for any student will not be tolerated.

- **Come to class prepared, be productive and participate.** Bring all materials, turn in all assignments, use class time effectively and contribute to discussions and group activities.

- **Keep food, drinks and electronic devices out of the classroom.** No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom except for bottled water. Electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, and MP3 players are not to be seen or used in class. Period.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **A. Absence**

1. You must be physically present or you are defined as absent.
2. It is the policy of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District to encourage students' regular attendance and participation in all classes. Student participation and personal interaction with teachers and with fellow classmates are recognized as integral parts of the students' high school learning experience.
3. Excessive excused absences may directly affect a student's grade whether by missing class lectures and discussions or by failing to turn in homework and tests.
4. When students lose a class, they lose credit and can become ineligible for athletics and/or for co-curricular activities.

### **B. Clearing Absences**

1. You must bring a note signed by your parent/ guardian stating the reason for your absence to the attendance office upon your return to school.
2. Unless you have cleared the absence by note from a parent through the attendance office, you will be marked truant. The attendance office is open from 7:15 a.m. to 9:25 a.m., and during snack and lunch.

### **C. Off-Grounds Pass/Leaving Campus**

You must obtain an Off-Grounds Pass from the attendance office, if you are required to leave campus for any reason.

## **PUNCTUALITY**

It is important to be in class on time. You are tardy when you are not in your seat when the bell rings. Any student who is tardy more than 30 minutes is absent for the period and must clear the absence with the attendance office the following day. Detention will be assigned for tardiness. In case of excessive tardiness, your parent(s) will be contacted and you will be referred to your Educational Advisor. Chronic tardiness may result in the loss of your class.

## **MATERIALS (Daily Required Materials)**

1. Current text (core or extended literature book)
2. Three-ring binder with dividers for year-long handouts, projects, assignments and homework
3. Blue or black pen, pencil and highlighter
4. Two standard size lined spiral notebooks. One for class notes and assignments and the other for journals
5. Loose notebook paper for in-class assignments
6. Homework and all practice sheets that have been handed out
7. Outside reading book

I recommend (but do not require) buying your own core literature books for personal use. This allows you to make notes in the margins, highlight significant passages and make other helpful notations. These will aid you in your

overall comprehension, enrichment of the material, critical thinking and preparation for assignments and tests. (Lists will be given to individual classes.)

## **GRADES**

1. Grades given at the end of the semester are final. No extra credit work will be given to boost your grade at the last minute. This is unfair to those students who have worked hard to be successful all semester.

2. I will regularly post scores and grades on Gradebook Wizard and periodically post a printout of class grades using student ID numbers. Therefore, students can determine what their current grades are at any time.

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

1. It is your responsibility to make sure that you get any missed assignments immediately from the tray labeled “make-up work” near my desk on the day you return from an excused absence or you may download from my website. I am responsible for putting the work in the tray, but you are responsible for retrieving it. First, ask a peer about information that was missed and then ask me after class if you have any further questions or do not understand the material.

2. You must get any notes taken during class or information given during instruction from a peer or arrange with me to get it after school.

3. It is your responsibility to hand in any homework that was collected during your excused absence and to turn in your make-up work. You have one day for every day that you are absent to turn in make-up work that is due.

4. A missed test must be made up on the next make-up day after your return. Failure to report for a make-up test at the agreed upon time will result in a zero for that test. Do not count on a make-up test being the same as the original.

5. An UNEXCUSED absence will result in a ZERO for all work missed during that absence. (Test or otherwise.)

## **LATE WORK**

1. You are only given ONE DAY past a due date to turn in late homework such as handouts and one-fourth of the points will be deducted. They will not be accepted after that point.

2. Major assignments such as essays and projects will be penalized one full letter grade for each day they are late. Due dates will be given well in advance, so there are no excuses.

## **PARENT SUPPORT**

Parent support is vital to student success. It is important that you, along with your parents, monitor your progress in the class by checking homework and test scores on Gradebook Wizard. Because parents are not in the classroom, it is necessary that you keep them informed and discuss the assignments and material you are studying. You can see me during lunch or after school if you have any questions about your grade or any assignments. If parents, after discussing any issues with their child, still have questions, they may contact me directly.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. As a college preparatory class, students will be involved in the research process and will be expected to use library resources at school as well as community and other public facilities in order to gather information.

2. Feel free to set up a conference with me for any reason. Students may also stop by at lunch or after school. The best way to contact me, if this cannot be done during class or school time, is to leave a voice mail on my extension here at school or to send me an e-mail.

Voice mail: Dial the school number + extension 5234

E-mail: [mmcavin@@mbusd.org](mailto:mmcavin@@mbusd.org)

THANK YOU, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR!!

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I have read all of the Classroom Expectations for English\_\_\_\_\_ taught by Mr. McAvin.

Print student name\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_