

ECHS English Department Expectations 2010-2011

English Department Grading Policy

- 50% Tests/Projects/Major Grades
- 50% Homework/Daily/Quizzes

English Department Honors/AP Policy At A Glance

1. Summer reading and assignments **MUST** be completed **PRIOR** to first day of class
2. Summer reading assessments count as **TEST** grades
3. No extra credit
4. No late work, with the exception of “Mercy Moments” – 2 per six weeks per student (this is a teacher prerogative, teachers may choose **ONE** or **NO** Mercy Moments)*
* also applicable to standard classes

Honors

- Literature
 - literature read independently prior to class
 - literary discussions generally occur after initial assessment
 - prerequisite reading is required and tested the first day of class
 - students interact with text – analytical, critical, and interpretive approaches are required (upper levels of Bloom’s)
 - students are exposed to literary theory in increasing depth year to year
 - more literature is assigned since speed and reading ability is generally advanced
 - minimum of 6 major works per semester excluding prerequisite reading for 9th & 10th
 - minimum of 8 major works per semester excluding prerequisite reading for 11th & 12th
- Writing
 - all formal writing assignments typed (common-sense instructor judgment calls...)
 - formal writing assignments are in-depth with documented evidence from text when applicable
 - students develop their own essay topics based on reading and interests
 - students have the option to revise writing assignments, subsequent grade averaged with previous – any corrections must be highlighted/indicated and justified
 - comprehensive writing rubrics for every assignment
- General
 - tiered project assignments with a writing element always included
 - manage both short-term and long-term assignments as well as ongoing in-class work
 - vocabulary based on literary analysis and SAT words
 - no extra-credit
 - no reteach-retest

- no late work accepted with the exception of “Mercy Moments” – 2 per six weeks per student
- classes operate with college-prep atmosphere
- seminar style discussions
- expected to investigate concepts themselves
- students should be able to provide rationales for learning
- students should be consistent with detailed articulation in writing and speaking
- assignments and assessments should offer students some choice, but should always have a writing element
- intensity and expectations will increase with grade level

Standard

- Literature
 - some class time allowed for reading
 - assessments often occur after literary discussion
 - no prerequisite reading
 - students interact with text on a literal level which is more accessible to them; analytical, critical, and interpretive approaches are encouraged (upper levels of Bloom’s)
 - minimum of 5 major outside works per semester for 9th & 10th
 - minimum of 6 major outside works per semester for 11th & 12th
- Writing
 - students are encouraged to type all formal writing assignments
 - formal writing assignments are in-depth with documented evidence from text when applicable but are not expected to be as sophisticated as Honors
 - essay topics based are generally teacher-generated
 - students may revise writing assignments as often as they like, each new grade replaces the previous
 - comprehensive writing rubrics for every assignment
- General
 - tiered project assignments with a writing element option always included
 - fewer short-term and long-term assignments – more emphasis on in-class work
 - vocabulary based on literary analysis and content words
 - minimal extra-credit
 - reteach-retest encouraged
 - late work penalized with the exception of “Mercy Moments” – 2 per six weeks per student
 - seminar style discussions when possible
 - students should be working on improving skills with writing and speaking
 - assignments and assessments should offer students some choice, but should always have a writing element
 - intensity and expectations will increase with grade level

Required pre-requisite reading for Honors English classes **ECHS 2010-2011**

To the student:

We suggest that you supplement your reading with ongoing analysis. A suggested format is a reading log (instructions attached). Be prepared for an assessment on the first day of class over all required reading. Any handwritten notes or reading logs that you produce **may** or **may not** be used during this assessment, but will be valuable during subsequent discussions. As you read, be sure to analyze literary elements such as setting, theme, etc. and their impact on the work. We strongly recommend that you purchase your own copy of the works so that you can interpret as you read by writing notes in the margin, using sticky notes, and/or marking your reading log entries. Many local bookstores stock the required titles, or can order them.

2010-2011

Required SUMMER reading titles per grade:

Freshman:

- *A Separate Peace*, John Knowles

Sophomores:

- *Alive*, Piers Paul Read

Juniors:

- *Ethan Frome*, Edith Wharton
- *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller

Seniors:

- *Brave New World* Aldous Huxley
- *And Then There Were None*, Agatha Christie

AP Literature and **AP Language** titles will be supplied to those students.

Students are tested on the first day of class, regardless of semester.