

# Accelerated English I

## Course Syllabus and Expectations

### 2016-2017

#### Melissa Sinn

Welcome! I am really looking forward to having you in my English class this year. This syllabus outlines my course expectations for you, as well as my classroom policies, contact information, and other important information.

**About the Class:** This course will focus on writing, reading, language, and speaking. We will review and master grammatical terminology, practice all writing traits and composition modes, and develop critical thinking skills. We will read selected short stories, essays, poems, plays, and novels. Students will prepare and deliver speeches and presentations to the class.

\***ALL** formal papers must be:

- Typed/double-spaced
- 12 pt. font using standard fonts only
- The Language Arts Department often uses Google Classroom and the district-specific Google Drive for paper submission. Students will be expected to have accounts and use the programs according to teacher directions.

#### **Contact Information:**

Email: sinn\_melissa@silverfalls.k12.or.us

Phone: (503) 873-6331 ext. 3788

Room: A101

Need help?: I am here 7:30-3:30, unless I have a meeting. Sometimes I can come earlier or stay later if you need to see me.

#### **Expectations**

**Attendance:** Attendance is essential in order to meet the goals of the class. Maintaining a minimum of a 92% attendance rate is expected.

**Tardies:** You will be counted on time if you are inside the classroom when the bell rings. You will have 5 seconds to get to your seat. If you are not in your seat in 5 seconds, you will be marked tardy. School policy states that you will be assigned a lunch detention if you are tardy.

**Bathroom Use:** Students must ask permission to use the bathroom at an appropriate time (not while I'm addressing the class) and use the bathroom pass located by the door. **TEN AND TEN RULE:** Students may not use the bathroom pass for the first or last 10 minutes of class. Also, please do not ask me before class if you may use the bathroom if you know you'll be tardy. If you decide to use the bathroom before class and are tardy, you will receive a lunch detention.

**Food and Beverages:** Students may bring beverages in a spill-proof container to class. If you bring food into the classroom, please put it on the side counter and pick it up when you leave.

**Cell Phones/iPods:** Cell phones must be turned off during class time. If I see or hear one in use, I will take it. If it happens repeatedly, your parent will have to come to school to get the phone. Music players may be used in class *only* when I expressly allow it.

**Dismissal: This one is especially important to me.** It is disrespectful to begin gathering your things while a lesson is being completed, so please don't. Repeated instances of will result in lunch detention.

**Missed Tests and School Work:**

If you are absent one day, you have one day to make up your work for it to be counted on time. **Once you complete an assignment from a day you missed, please write "ABSENT" at the top and turn it into the "turn-in" basket.** Students will receive a 1 on standard SL1 if an assignment is not turned in on time. Therefore, it is very important to turn work in on time. There is also a 6 week cut off for all late work.

Tests and assessments must be made up upon your return. **You are given one week to make up a missed test or assessment.** Please see me to work out a make-up time. **If you do not come to me about making up the test, or you forget to do it, you will lose the opportunity to be assessed on those standards and receive a 0.**

**To Find Missing Work, 3 Before Me:**

1. Check the Missing Work Binder (to see what we did)
2. Check Google Classroom (the document "Missing Work" in the "About" tab)
3. Check with a classmate

Once you find what you missed, see me to get any handouts (or check the side table). If you missed an assessment or test, plan a time to make it up. Again, you have one week to make up tests or assessments.

**Honor Policy:**

Silverton High School faculty and administration believe that honesty and trustworthiness are the basic characteristics of a citizen in a free society. We also believe that whatever learning a person achieves as the result of his/her own efforts is an accomplishment in which he/she can take pride and which will be of use and benefit to him/her.

In this belief, and as an expression of the value we place on the integrity of a student's work, **we will not accept plagiarism, copying the work of others, doing another student's work for him/her, giving him/her answers for tests, nor any other activity that falls into the classification of academic dishonesty.** The consequences for such action will be the confiscation of material, notification of parents, possible failure of assignment and/or class, and disciplinary action.

**Behavior:** I expect you to be safe, respectful, and responsible. For example, please do not sharpen your pencil while I am talking; that would be disrespectful.

**Required Supplies**

- At least one spiral or Mead Composition notebook (available from the library for \$1.50)
- Plenty of loose leaf notebook paper
- Pens and highlighters of at least two colors
- A box of Kleenex

**Movies:**

This semester, we will watch the short film *2081* (independent release, 2009) and the feature-length film *To Kill a Mockingbird* (No-Rating, released in 1962). If parents have concerns about this or any other films that are shown in the classroom, they are more than welcome to preview the films at any time, and are always welcome to contact me to discuss any questions or concerns they may have. In the event that

any other feature film or part of a feature film will be added to this semester's curriculum, I will notify parents and the students ahead of time.

**Curriculum:**

Freshman English will be exploring the theme of human nature all year. This semester will begin with a short story unit that will transition into a writing unit focused on short informational/expository essays. We will then be reading the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee until the end of the semester, working throughout on our reading, writing, speaking, and analytical skills.

If you or your parents have any questions about anything that we are reading, or would like to talk to me about my selections, please let me know and I would be more than happy to arrange that.

**Grading Policy and Assignments– Please read this carefully!**

A= 100-90%; B=89-80%; C=79-70%; D=69-60%; F=59% and lower

Our goal as a department is to ensure students master each of the Common Core State Standards selected for their English course. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency on each standard. Each standard is equally weighted in the gradebook, so it is important that students focus on all standards selected for the course. All assignments are graded on scale of 1-5. A score of 4 signifies proficiency, or “passing” a standard. A score of 5 signifies mastery of a standard. A score of 3 signifies developing toward proficiency.

**First Due Dates**

October 7: First book and all late work due

November 16: Second book and all late work due

January 18: Third book and all late work due

**Accelerated English I-Please cut on the line and turn this sheet in.**

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**My student and I have read and understand the course description, requirements, and expectations for Accelerated English I. S/he and I understand and agree to abide by the policies.**

**Student:**

**Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian:**

**Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

