

**CP English II**  
**Class Syllabus Ms. DeFillipo**  
**Email: [adefillipo@suhsd.net](mailto:adefillipo@suhsd.net) | Website: [adefillipoclassroom.com](http://adefillipoclassroom.com)**

**WELCOME!**

I am so excited to have you in my class this year. My goal for our year is for you to feel challenged, learn new things, become more self-directed, share your ideas, be a part of a community, and have fun when you are in room 101.

**Course Description:**

This course has been designed to introduce 10th grade high school students to the concepts and skills necessary to be successful students and members of our community outside of school. Understandings and skills are accomplished and strengthened by students through an emphasis in reading fiction and nonfiction for comprehension, effective writing, and listening and speaking skills development. The course will engage students in careful reading and analysis of a challenging set of literary works from a range of genres including the novel, short story, essay, memoirs, and poetry. The focus of the course will be on intensive reading and discussion of the texts, as well introducing critical essays for discussion and evaluation. Emphasis will be placed on thoughtful analysis of the readings using a variety of methods and devices. In addition, students will compose a variety of texts, including (but not limited to) analytical and argumentative essays, narratives and poetry, presentations and projects. In CP English II we will work together to develop students skills in all areas of English Language Arts.

**Instructional Philosophy:**

In order to be successful in this course, students are expected to be active participants. It is my goal to provide a positive and engaging classroom where all students have the opportunity to learn, succeed, and share their thoughts and opinions verbally without fear of embarrassment or ridicule. The primary objectives of my class is to prepare students for higher-level reading and writing skills and heighten their overall communication skills so they become successful in life. And to overall develop students' competence as writers, readers, speakers, listeners, and viewers of many texts.

**Learning goals:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Read and analyze a variety of challenging texts from several genres of literature and nonfiction.
2. Improve close reading and analytical strategies.
3. Write in a variety of modes (narrative, persuasive, expository, literary) using rubrics and demonstrating mastery of new vocabulary.
4. Effectively state, support, and explain claims (in writing and speaking).
5. Think critically and support ideas through problem solving.
6. Be able to communicate effectively through writing and speaking.
7. Improve organization in writing.
8. Choose challenging and accessible free choice reading books

### **My Expectations (and goals):**

*Be respectful:* Treat everyone with the proper consideration, regardless of whether he/she is in the classroom at the time. Use respectful language, in writing as well as in discussions. Do your best to be aware and recognize that your classmates may not have the same opinions or ideals as you; be open to new ideas and perspectives.

*Be Responsible:* Arrive at class on time and with all necessary materials. Do your best to complete assignments on time. Ask questions when necessary, and stay aware of deadlines. If you are having trouble with an assignment, need an extension, or just need a new explanation of the class work; come ask me, I am always happy to help. Be prepared for the start of class each day and ready to learn and expand your understanding. Do what you think is right, regardless of what everyone else in class is doing.

*Be appropriate:* Conduct yourself as a mature, well-mannered young adult. Think before you speak, and make sure all contributions to the class dialogue should be meaningful and pertinent. Take care of personal business when the time is appropriate. Use your privileges wisely.

*Be Involved:* Participate to the fullest extent that you can. Take part in discussion. Share your opinion; your idea could be the ignition point to your classmates understanding. Ask questions. Answer questions. Stay on task. Take notes. Keep your head up. Do your homework. Use class time efficiently. Listen. Watch. Participate.

*Be honest:* Do your own work. If you are confused, ask for clarification. If you're lost, raise your hand. Be honest with yourself if you need help or are struggling; I am here to facilitate your learning. No question is a dumb question; chances are someone else in the room is wondering the same thing.

### **Grading:**

Participation 15%

Writing 30%

Reading 30%

Speaking & Listening 25%

### **Late Work:**

I do not accept late work. Period. If you are absent on a due date, your completed work must arrive with you on the first day back in class. If you are absent on a day an assignment is given, your work is due one day after you return. I do not accept late/make-up assignments for unexcused absences (truancies).

### **No Name**

No name on work=no credit. Make sure you get in the habit of including your name, date, class period, and student number in the top right corner of all assignments.

### **What if I need help?**

One of my main goals is to help prepare you for life outside the classroom. I believe one of the most important skills you will need is self-advocacy. This means being able to identify when you need something and being able to seek out what you need. If you ever have a question or need help with something, please ASK! Do not wait for me to notice you are struggling. You can ask during class, before or after class, during lunch, before school, or after school. You can even write me a note, send me an email, or message me through my website. I became a teacher to help YOU! Nothing makes me happier than to help a student who has the guts to ask for help or feedback on an assignment!

### **What if I'm absent?**

If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to set up a conference with me the day you return to class. Each class period is action-packed, so we will likely not have time to discuss what you missed during our English class period and will need to arrange an alternate time. Students are 100% responsible for taking ownership of making up missing work. Also note, students with excused absences may need to complete alternative assignments to make up for missed classroom activities.

### **Cell Phone Policy:**

We will be using cell phones during class throughout the year, however it is important to remember cell phone use is a privilege. Whether we are using your phone or not your phone must *always* be on **silent**. When we are **not** using our phones your phone *must* be in the **upper left hand corner** and it must be **face-down**.

### **Manuscript Requirements:**

Foothill High School and I require all major assignments to be typed or word processed in Modern Language Association (MLA) format. If you do not have access to a computer at home, you may use FHS' library computers, the computer lab, or my classroom computers by appointment. I will make every effort to provide you with access to a computer, but I will not grade handwritten major assignments. Plan ahead!

### **Academic Honesty:**

Using another writer's words, ideas, or concepts without citing that original writer is cheating, plain and simple, **whether you meant to do it or not**. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will result in an automatic grade of **zero** with NO OPPORTUNITY to make up the points. Should you make this grievous error, you will also be placed on an academic honesty contract, and two offenses automatically result in a failed grade for the entire semester. Do not risk your graduation status, your grade in this course, and your professional reputation. Cheating robs you of your pride in your work and your readiness for college, as well. Please see FHS' Parent/Student Handbook for more detail.

Please sign and return this page only by August 26th

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**I/We have read and understand the policies and expectations of CP English II.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_