**Mrs. Helton’s English I CP, Room S214**

**2015-2016 School Year Course Syllabus**

***Welcome to Norman North High School!***

The transition to high school is an exciting one, and it brings with it both *greater freedom* and *greater responsibility*. Success in English I CP will require consistent **attendance**, **participation**, and ownership of that **responsibility**. Now is a great time to develop the study skills and habits (not to mention the ability to work with other people) that will help to make you successful in the adult world, whether that includes college, technical training, or the workforce.

***What will we cover this year?***

Major Overall Skills/Content: Literary Terms, Latin Roots, Grammar (especially: Parts of Speech and Their Usage, Types of Sentences, Phrases and Clauses), and Writing (MLA format, strong paragraphs, strong thesis statements), among other skills and content

Fall Semester Works/Units: Short Stories, *Animal Farm*, and *The Odyssey* (abridged), along with various nonfiction pieces

Spring Semester Works/Units: Poetry, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Fahrenheit 451*, along with various nonfiction pieces

Fall Semester Major Writing Assignments: A Personal Narrative (beginning of semester), a Literary Analysis Essay (with “The Cask of Amontillado,” a short story), and an Argumentative Essay (with *Animal Farm*), among other writing tasks

Spring Semester Major Writing Assignments: An Argumentative Essay (with *Romeo and Juliet*), a Literary Analysis Essay (with *Fahrenheit 451*), and a Research paper, among other writing tasks

***What will you need to bring to class?***

1. Pens or pencils
2. Highlighter(s)
3. Paper (ideally in a notebook devoted to this class or a section of a binder devoted to this class)
4. A folder to keep handouts (can be part of a notebook)
5. A book to read every day at the start of class (this can be picked up from the school library)

***What kind of assignments will you see, and how will you be graded?***

* Assignments will fall under one of five categories, *each weighted at 20% of the overall semester grade*:
	+ **Daily Assignments**: These will mostly be done in class, though they can become homework if a student is unable to finish in that class period. (Some readings also will be assigned outside of class due to time constraints, though certainly not all of them.)
	+ **Quizzes**: These will occur within units to check students’ understanding of skills and concepts as we progress. These may be written (short essay, etc.) or objective (multiple choice, etc.).
	+ **Tests**: These will occur upon the completion of certain units to check students’ understanding of skills acquired and concepts learned. These may be written (short essay, etc.) or objective (multiple choice, etc.).
	+ **Writing Assignments**: Specific examples of these are listed under the “What will we cover?” section; while time in class will be devoted to drafting, writing, editing, and typing these, often times students will need time outside of class to complete these projects. Deadlines will always take into consideration the extra time needed given students’ busy schedules.
	+ **Final Exam**: This will occur at the end of the semester. It will cover skills acquired during the semester, which we should be using continually, and there will be adequate review prior. This is an objective exam (multiple choice, etc.).
* The *grading scale* is as follows:
	+ 90-100%: **A** (Excellent)
	+ 80-89%: **B** (Above Average)
	+ 70-79%: **C** (Average)
	+ 60-69%: **D** (Below average, but still passing)
	+ 59% and below: **F** (Failing)

***What are some class policies and expectations?***

* Cell phone (and other electronic device) usage:
	+ There will be times in class when cell-phones (or computers, tablets, etc.) can be used for research and when students may listen to music with headphones as they work.
	+ **Cell phones (and etc.)** **will not be allowed out during quizzes, tests, the final exam, and lessons**.
	+ If cell phone (and etc.) usage interferes with your ability to focus on or complete work, I will *ask you to put your phone away for the remainder of the period*.
	+ If cell phone (and etc.) usage becomes a greater issue, you may *lose your privilege to use your phone (etc.) in my classroom*. Please use good judgement with this!
* Cheating and plagiarism: Neither of these will be tolerated, and *both can result in a zero* on the assignment in question.
* ID Usage: IDs will be necessary to check out books from the textbook room and the library, among other campus privileges. I will always try to remind you to have your ID with you when our class heads to either location.
* Food and Drink: Food is *not allowed* in class, *nor are open-container drinks*. Bottled water, for example, is acceptable.
* Tardy Sweep: Once the bell has rung and my door is closed you are considered tardy. *You will be sent to get a tardy pass* at that point.
* Absences: If you are absent, *it is your responsibility to check on what work or handouts you might have missed from that day or days*. The amount of time you will have to make up your work without late penalty will be equal to the amount of days absent: for example, three days absent gives you three days from the time you return to class to make up your missing work. Extended absences will be handled according to the student handbook. **Quizzes and tests can be made up in my room during overtime, lunch, or after school.**
* Overtime: Overtime is *from 8:40-9:00 every morning*, and with the exception of meeting days I am in my classroom at this time. It is a great time to come in for extra help if you need it, or to find out what work you may have missed.
* Late Work: Late work *will be accepted for 10% off for each day past the due date* (so, 2 days late equals 20% off the total possible points). There are *two late passes attached to this syllabus*: one for each semester. These will enable you to turn in an assignment *up to a week late* without penalty. Save them and use them wisely! (*Late passes cannot be used on the major Research Paper*, nor may they be used for Quizzes, Tests, and the Final Exam.)
* Attitude: **Attitude is everything!** *I promise to respect you and do my best to help you succeed this year*. I ask in return that you come prepared to *work hard and try your best*. I ask also that you follow school rules and *treat others with respect and kindness.*

***What Are Some Norman Public Schools Policies You Should Know?***

* “Norman Public Schools recognize that students must be able to read and comprehend increasingly complex informational and literary text in order to meet the rigorous demands of college and future workforce. They must read widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality, challenging text and develop the skill to read these texts independently and proficiently. Literature provides rich and timeless insights into universal themes, dilemmas and social realities of the world representing complex stories in which the thoughts and actions of human beings are revealed. Life shapes literature and literature shapes life. In our attempt to provide rich and varied reading experiences for all students, some selections are focused toward mature readers. If parents feel the content of a text assigned is not appropriate for their child, please consult your child's teachers for an alternative assigned reading. We encourage parents to preview all required texts.”
* “It is the policy of the Norman Public Schools to provide structures for students to learn and practice the writing process with academic honesty and integrity. We are providing a service to our high school students called Turn It In (http://www.turnitin.com), a website that helps our instructors manage written assignments, build a learning community, and reinforce 21st century skills and knowledge. This service also cross-references student work with a large database of written material to check for originality. If plagiarism is suspected, teachers will conference with students and determine a course of action on a case by case basis.”

***How Can You Get in Touch with Mrs. Helton?***

* Email: kgraham3@norman.k12.ok.us
* Class website: heltonenglish1.weebly.com
	+ I post links to handouts and recent assignments on here; this is a great resource if you are absent or have lost a document!
* Remind (text/e-mail messaging service): I will use remind to send out, you guessed it, reminders for upcoming due dates and the like. Please see the following page for how to sign up!

Mrs. Helton’s English I CP: Fall Semester Late Work Pass

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Original Due Date of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Late Submission (cannot exceed one week past original due date): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Submitting Assignment Late: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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How will you avoid late work in the future? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please attach this with your late assignment. One late pass only is allowed per student, per semester. I will be keeping track of these. ☺

Mrs. Helton’s English I CP: Spring Semester Late Work Pass

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Original Due Date of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Late Submission (cannot exceed one week past original due date): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Submitting Assignment Late: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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How will you avoid late work in the future? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please attach this with your late assignment. One late pass only is allowed per student, per semester. I will be keeping track of these. ☺

Signatures:

*I have read the syllabus, and I agree to its contents.*

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Submission of this signature page is worth 20 points under the “Daily Assignments” category. The signature page (NOT syllabus—please keep the rest of the packet for your records) is due returned and signed by both student and parent/guardian by Tuesday, August 25, 2015.