

English II—Mr. Goldin & Ms. Hellman

“Why not go out on a limb? That’s where the fruit is.”

–Mark Twain

Contact Information

Please do NOT call my work phone.

Email: louis.goldin@dcsdk12.org

Classroom: 3400 Off: 4th (3000 office) & 7th (3400) Access: 3400

Email: kellie.hellman@dcsdk12.org Classroom: 4115 Off: 5th & 7th Access: 4115/4119

Website: <http://goldinclasses.weebly.com/>

Course Description & Objectives

Welcome to English. In this class, we are going to try to accomplish a variety of things:

- “Suck the marrow out of life” (Thoreau)
- Look at things from a variety of angles
- Learn about and strive for social justice
- Learn to ask “the important questions”
- Empower individuals
- Learn how to formally write, along with know how to construct and express your ideas
- Be challenged and pushed outside of your comfort zone
- Class participation is essential—It is my job is to act more as a facilitator.

Five things that I care immensely about and always focus on:

1. Respect yourself, others, others’ belongings, and the school
2. Accountability for one’s self and one’s actions
3. Critical Thinking
4. Ask the important questions
5. Student advocacy vs guardian advocacy

Materials

- These items should be brought to class each day:
 - An open mind that is willing to take chances and go to new realms
 - Novel/Text/Reading (when assigned)
 - Each individual *must* have the text.
 - There might be a grade associated with this...
 - *Support our English Department by purchasing these books from the Lone Tree Barnes & Noble between August 8-14 or online. When ordering online, enter the book fair code 11886694 in order for RC to receive the purchase credit.*
 - *I strongly recommend to purchase a 3-ring binder, looseleaf paper, and subject dividers.* I suggest having a few categories: classwork/homework, notes, quizzes, and papers/projects
 - It is your responsibility to bring a pen/pencil and paper.
 - I will NOT supply these items for you.
 - It is highly advised that you bring an electronic device that can connect to the internet. This will be extremely helpful.

- *This is a privilege versus a right.* Thus, this privilege should not be abused. If it is, I might take your electronic device. At the same time, I will make it clear when such devices and headphones are permitted.
- There might be a grade element to this...

Major Assignments

Formal Papers

Writing is extremely important because it enables you to convey your ideas and truly express yourself. We are going to intensely focus on formal writing and hone this skill. In this class, you will write in a variety of ways and styles. After almost every major unit, there will be a formal take home or in-class essay.

Information about formal papers:

- All formal take home papers and projects must be typed and electronically submitted. (Directions on how this is done will be given at a later point.)
- You must follow MLA rules (i.e, font size, page spacing, and citations), have your name, my name, name of the class, the date the paper is handed in on it, and a title (have fun and be creative with the title).
 - Failure to follow these rules will result in deduction of points (usually, but not always, 10 points off). This reason for this is because it creates more work for me.
- At times, I may offer an early due date. If papers are handed in on this early due date, then extra credit will be given to students who submit papers on the early date.
- At times, you might be allowed to write a group paper. When it is necessary, I will further explain how this works.
- Some papers might be in-class handwritten papers.
- If you have extenuating circumstances when the assignment is due, then you must get in touch with me IN ADVANCE (more than the day before). Extensions may be given on an individual basis, but need to be worked out with me ahead of time.
- *Penalties for late papers*
 - **Hard Copies & Electronic Version:**
 - 1st school day (not class day)--20 points off
 - 2nd school day (not class day)--10 additional points off (total of 30 points off)
 - 3rd school day and more--The paper will receive a zero, and it cannot be made up.
 - A day off from school (i.e., Saturday) = 1 school day
- If you have an unexcused absence during a class when a paper is due, then the first day after the assignment is due = 50% off the assignment. The second day after the assignment is due = 0%.

Projects

In addition to papers, there will be projects. Some projects may allow (if so desired) for group work and may be presented to the class in an oral presentation. Others will be handed in. I will go over the criteria for each assignment when we get closer to having a project due.

- At times, I may offer an early due date. If projects are handed in on this early due date, then extra credit will be given to students who submit projects on this date.
- Late policy for projects follows the same policy as for formal papers.

Quizzes

Oftentimes, quizzes will be weekly. They will consist of reading comprehension and/or vocabulary. I am not a huge fan of them, but they do serve two important purposes: They keep you honest, on-task with your reading, and they let me know which parts are confusing.

- No name on a quiz will result in 20 points off. (This creates more work for me.)
- There is always a chance that there can be a pop quiz...
- Hint: If you only read Sparknotes, you will not do well on the reading section of the quiz.

Absences

- Excused: If you are absent for any quiz, you have one week to make up the quiz. You must schedule a time to make this up with me. (Access is the most ideal time to do this). Failure to do so will result in a zero.
 - If you receive permission from me, this make-up policy can be extended, but you must seek me out sooner rather than later.
- Unexcused: You will earn a 0 with no chance of making the grade up.

If you come in late and we are taking a quiz, you will not have any extra time, and you will not get to see the questions that you missed (unless extenuating circumstances).

Classwork/Homework

- Classwork/homework assignments can, and do, cover a wide array of topics and different types of materials.
- Russian Roulette Grading (Let the fun begin!)
 - Not all work will be collected... Not all work that is collected will be graded...
- Homework (usually reading and studying vocabulary) is typically assigned on Monday, and due the following Monday.
- Grading for classwork/homework is usually done on a 20 Point Scale (out of 100 points)
 - Scales goes from 100 to a 0. The scale moves every 5 points (i.e., 95, 90, ...)
- No name on a collected and graded assignment will result in 20 points off.
- If homework is collected, then it is due at the beginning of the class period.
- Make-Up Work Policy
 - I will ONLY allow two days (not class days and a weekend counts as one day) to make-up late work. The highest grade that you can earn on the first day that is late is 75%, and for the second day is a 50%. After this, the grade will be marked as missing (counts a 0% in the grade book) and canNOT be made-up.
- Absences
 - Excused: You have the amount of days that you missed school plus one to make up any missing assignments.
 - Unexcused: You have one school day (not class day) to make up the work and hand it into me in order to receive half credit. You must find me. I will not look for you. After 24 hours from the start of the class that was skipped, you will have a zero with no chance to make up the work.

Attendance/Tardy*Absences*

- I follow what Rock Canyon defines as an excused and unexcused absence and the school attendance policy.
- Attendance is crucial for you and the class' success
- It is YOUR responsibility to turn your assignments in when you return to school and to find out what you missed while you were gone. It is advised to first ask a fellow friend/classmate before asking me.
- If you know you will be missing class, it is to your benefit to inform me ahead of time (ideally not the day before). Therefore, you and I can work together to figure out an appropriate due date for any missing assignments.

Tardy

- I follow Rock Canyon's policy regarding tardies.
- If anything is handed in and/or distributed at the beginning of class (i.e., a graded assignment, group work, lecture, etc) it is your responsibility to get caught up to the class.

Academic Integrity & Cheating (Don't do it. Yes, it's that simple.)

- Academic integrity includes: cheating, copying, providing answers, plagiarism, forgery, libel, slander, and/or lying or giving false information to a school official. You will be held accountable for violations of academic integrity through lack of credit, loss of privileges, and/or disciplinary actions. If you are guilty of an infraction, you may be referred to your administrator. Clear guidelines with regards to policy are outlined in the student handbook.
- If you are caught cheating on any assignment (including plagiarizing), you will receive a zero. This fact is true if it is just one line in a paper. Any cheated/plagiarized work will not be allowed to be made up for any sort of credit, which includes extra credit.

Grading

- I understand grades are not always a complete indicator of a student's performance, growth, and comprehension. However, as your teacher, I must evaluate by using grades.
- Weights
 - Papers/Projects= 40%
 - Quizzes = 25%
 - Homework/Classwork = 20%
 - Exam = 15%
- "Cool Points"
 - At the end of each semester, I will look at your overall average grade and see if Cool Points should be added. Cool Points are only added to individual's grades if they fully meet two conditions (These points do NOT have to be given):
 1. The student must be someone who almost always shows up on time and attends class, behaves well within class, regularly contributes in a positive way to class, and almost always hands in his/her work on time.
 2. The student has a grade that is close to the next grade level, but is not quite there. (i.e., A student has a final semester grade of 79% vs a 76%.)
 - If criteria 1 and 2 are met, then Cool Points may be added in order to increase a student's grade. (i.e., If a student has a final semester grade of 79% and meets all of the criteria of part 1, then I will find a way for this student to earn a 80% in the class.
 - Remember, I do NOT have to apply Cool Points. It is only if I feel you have earned these points.
- Grading Scale--I round up your final grade.
 - 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, 59% and below = F