

“There is no story that is not true.” *Chinua Achebe* “If you don’t like my story, write your own.” *Chinua Achebe*

English 10 Honors Course Syllabus
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In this year-long course, students in semester two of *English 10 Honors* apply the idea of world-view to their study of language, literature, informational texts, writing, and speaking and listening. Students examine several questions: *To what extent does experience determine what we perceive? Can progress be made without conflict? What kind of knowledge changes our lives?* Age-appropriate literature, as determined by critical research, pilot studies, and current educational use, has been carefully chosen for students, who will read to improve their understanding of fiction and nonfiction, to analyze literary themes, structures, and details, and to practice techniques of research and technology.

The *English 10 Honors* curriculum uses the works listed below for study because of their literary merit, as recognized by standard local, national, literary, and educational sources. Their study in the high school classroom, therefore, enables students to apply critical thinking processes to realistic issues encountered in the world. Although some works may contain strong language and/or sophisticated themes, they develop the powerful ideas of classical literature and themes in a contemporary context. We encourage parents and guardians to participate fully, reading along and discussing with students.

This semester, students will use the writing process for formal and informal responses to this literature. Additionally, students will use various reading strategies to help them prepare for college-level critical reading. The instructional outcomes align to the Common Core State Standards for Reading, Writing, Language, and Speaking and Listening. Ultimately, *English 10 Honors* prepares students to succeed on the ELA PARCC 10 Assessment (a graduation requirement) and in AP Language and Composition (11th grade).

The Arundel High Grading Policy is used: 65% from tests; 15% from class work; 10% from homework; 10% county quarterly exam. Students are encouraged to redo tests for a better grade AFTER they review the material to make sure they understand it. Extra help is available during Pride Period.

Quarter 1: *To what extent does experience determine what we perceive?*

Basic Texts: Pearson *Common Core Literature*, *Julius Caesar*, self-selected text

Summative Assessments: Rhetorical Analysis; Mechanics and Conventions

Quarter 2: *What kind of knowledge changes our lives?*

Readings: Pearson *Common Core Literature* (poetry and short stories), *Things Fall Apart* (Chinua Achebe)

Summative Assessments: Argument; Analysis; Narrative; Mechanics and Conventions

**Reminders: Students receive weekly progress reports through their 1st period teachers one-two Mondays a month. However, it is recommended that students and parents sign up for Parent Connect. Follow the directions from the AACPS.org site. Look under the Parents tab.

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Class Organization

1. Bring to class daily: paper, some pens and pencils, and 1-2 highlighters.
2. Organize the paper into binder sections: REFERENCE, NOTES, PORTFOLIO, HOMEWORK.
3. Use a PRINT agenda or calendar to record homework and manage time (in addition to a phone)
4. ***Check schoolnotes.com (21054) for English 10 Honors homework assignments (most easily accessible via Arundel HS’s website—Academics—Staff Directory—Becker—visit website)***
5. Absent?
 - (1) visit schoolnotes
 - (2) contact a classmate
 - (3) during Pride or between classes, copy missing notes (binder) and find missing handouts (box)
 - (4) place completed HW (late or from an absence) in dated folder on gray table
 - (5) take make-up assessments in testing center.
5. Need to catch up? Use Khan Academy and other on-line resources (SAT, ACT, or AP Practice).
6. Supplies to keep at home: stapler, three-hole-punch.