9th Grade World Literature I

Mr. Eric Mercer: eric.mercer@asfg.mx

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4th Period (or upon request)

**English Department Philosophy**

The study of literature encourages students to examine the human condition in all its aspects, and to effectively respond to the world around them in thoughtful and articulate ways. ASFG provides a high quality language arts education that emphasizes cultural literacy, human values, creativity, and critical thinking which empowers students as listeners, readers, writers, and speakers.

**Course Description**

This course examines ancient world storytelling and literature from the beginning of humanity through Shakespeare and the rise of the modern English language. The ninth grade English curriculum is designed to cultivate and expand the students’ reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, so students can determine what it means to write, speak, listen, and read well. The unit of study provides exposure to primary literary genres and writing domains.

**Evaluation:**

 Participation 10%

 Class Work/Homework 20%

 Quizzes 25%

 Essays/Projects 35%

 Outside Reading 10%

**Homework**

All homework is due at the beginning of the class of its due date to receive full credit for that assignment.

**Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance to class is vital to success in this class. It will be very difficult for students to do well in this class if they are not in class. I understand there are circumstances that impede attendance; however, every effort should be made to attend every day. If you are not in class, your participation grade will suffer.

**Make-up Policy**

It is your responsibility to ask about make-up work; however, if you knew about an assignment before your absence, the assignment is due on the day you return to school. If you have an unexcused absence, any assignments turned in that day will receive a grade reduction. Major papers and projects are given due dates in advance, and it is the student’s responsibility to make certain that paper or project is turned in on or before the due date if he/she knows of the absence beforehand. Absences do NOT excuse late final products. All other assignments must be turned in within the first two days following the absence.

**Cheating/Plagiarism Warning**

I maintain a strict policy of integrity toward student work. It is NOT acceptable to borrow another’s work for any reason without proper citation and permission from your instructor. Cheating for another class during English class will result in the notification of the other instructor and a referral. All other plagiarism policies will be followed.

**Participation**

All students are expected to arrive to class on time, prepared to work, and willing to give their best effort to the class. A maximum of 5 points per day will be recorded based on involvement in class.

You can earn your some of your points in the following ways:

 Be prepared for class – in your seat and ready for work

 Speak only English in class

 Be respectful and courteous to all

 Be an actively engaged learner

 Place your materials in the correct places

 Remain in your seat until I dismiss you

 Push your chair in when you leave

You can lose your points in the following ways:

 Come to class unprepared

 Speak in any language other than English

 No active participation (in other words sitting there and doing nothing)

 Being disruptive

 Leaving class without permission

 Sleeping in class

 Violate the electronics agreement (all electronic devices will be place in the basket before

 you sit down for class)

The loss of 5 points or more before class is finished awards you a trip to the office with a referral and a zero for any work collected that day. If this occurs more than once in any week and your parents will be notified.

**Participation Incentives**

As an incentive for good work and good behavior, you can earn points that will be kept in a points bank. Extra credit points are banked at the rate of 5 points every week you accumulate a 100% in participation.

These points can be spent in the following ways:

10 points = One extra Hall Pass (only one extra per quarter will be awarded)

20 points = Homework Pass (to be used on homework you have already missed, not for skipping

 an assignment)

40 points = 2% added to your quarter grade

45 points = 3% added to your quarter grade

**Attendance**

If you miss more than 10 minutes of any class period, you are considered absent and may not receive any participation points for that class period.

**Hall Passes**

You will receive 3 hall passes to use each quarter. I will be keeping record of those passes. When you are out of passes, you must use your passing periods more wisely. You can bank your unused hall passes for extra credit points to your accumulated bank of points.

**Speaking in Class**

You are expected to work on your English skills, verbally and in written form. You will be required to speak only English in this class – including speaking to each other. You will receive a warning, and then you will lose class points for speaking anything other than English in this class.

**Expectations**

You may not infringe on the rights of anyone else. If you miss a class period, it is your responsibility to collect all assignments and have them completed upon your return to school.

Dear Parents,

After reading and discussing this syllabus and policy with your student, please sign and return the bottom portion of this page to me by Friday, August 19th.

Sincerely,

Eric D Mercer

I have read all course expectations and requirements and will strive to maintain all 20 participation points every week.

Print Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_