I  Course Description

English 2R involves close reading of literature, intensive writing and revising, critical thinking and listening skills, and the discussion of literature in class. We will read several novels, plays, short stories, and poems with a focus on the theme of the individual in conflict with his or her culture and society.

II  Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course it is expected that students will be able to do the following:

• Make connections between literature and their own experiences
• Create a strong thesis that gives direction to an essay
• Organize a persuasive argument
• Edit and revise drafts
• Give critical feedback to their peers
• Compare and contrast different pieces of literature
• Conduct internet and library research
• Evaluate websites for relevance and reliability

These objectives will be realized through the following means:

• Homework assignments
• Guided in-class evaluations
• One-on-one writing assistance
• Exercises on mechanics and style
• Research and creative projects

III  Course Policies

A. Materials: Students are responsible for having a three-ring binder in class every day. All handouts will be three-hole punched so they can be kept in these binders. Binders and folders will be occasionally checked and graded for organization and content. Students are also required to bring a blue or black pen or a pencil and the relevant reading materials to class every day.

B. Missing Work: One point will be subtracted each day a homework assignment is late. Ten percent will be subtracted from other late assignments. When a draft or final is submitted, all previous drafts must accompany it. If a first draft is not turned in with the second draft, the second draft will still be accepted, but it will be treated as a first draft, and the second draft will receive a new due date.

C. Plagiarism: Plagiarism will be explained and discussed early in the first quarter. Plagiarized work will receive 0 points. The student’s guidance counselor and parents will be notified, along with the head of the English department.

D. Behavior: Behavior that distracts from the goals of the class negatively affects all in the classroom. If a problem persists it will result in a conference with parents or guardians.

E. Absences: Your attendance, both physical and mental, is an integral component of this course.

   a) Students are responsible for work missed due to all absences from class. Students must find out what work was missed. This is not the responsibility of the teacher.
   b) If the absence is unexcused, late work will be accepted and feedback will be given to the student, but the student will not receive credit.
c) If an absence is excused, the student must see the teacher to set up a schedule to complete missed assignments.
d) If a quiz or a test is missed the student must make it up the day he or she returns to class. It may not be possible to do it in class. The student is responsible for scheduling time with the teacher to take the quiz or test. If it is not taken within one week of the student’s return to class, it is a zero.

F. **Grading Policy:** The quarterly grades will be determined by the following: final drafts of essays, earlier graded drafts and outlines of essays, projects, quizzes, in-class and homework assignments, and classroom participation.

The final course grade will be determined by combining the four quarterly grades and the final exam and then dividing by five.

IV **Readings and Assignments**

The readings that follow will be accompanied by vocabulary lists and written homework assignments. In addition, whole class discussions, small group discussions, and written assignments will be used to analyze and assess literary elements and techniques used by the authors. Here are a few examples of the literary elements and techniques we will explore as a class: characterization, mood, theme, tone, irony, setting, point of view, and symbolism. Besides the writing assignments referenced above, students will write several Regents style essays throughout the year.

This is a list of possible titles for the year:

- John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*
- Judith Guest, *Ordinary People*
- Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*
- John Knowles, *A Separate Peace*
- Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*
- John Hersey, *Hiroshima*
- William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*
- George Orwell, *Animal Farm* or *1984*
- Various short stories and poems

Parents/Guardians and Students:

Once you have read the above syllabus and course requirements please sign below. If there are any questions, feel free to contact the instructor.

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Student Signature                      Date

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature             Date

Parent/Guardian e-mail address and/or phone number: __________________________________________