

Mr. Tan - 9ACP English Class

Contact Information

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Welcome to Wellesley High School!

This year we will travel through a number of texts, both classical and modern, spanning all genres and forms. We will work through your transition from middle school to high school by working on collaboration, reflection, and perseverance in the classroom.

As a class, we will read, write, and analyze all aspects of literature as well as honing your vocabulary and grammar to make all of you stronger readers, writers, and scholars. You can expect to have to have assigned some form of reading every night, often alongside reading discussion questions that will help guide your understanding of the text as well as prepare you for our class discussions. Together, we will explore many genres of literature and learn how to develop strong analysis, reflect on ideas, and articulate your well-developed thoughts.

I stress that in education, much like life, communication is key. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me and we can set up a time to conference. In addition, our aim is to develop your self-advocacy and sense of responsibility with your own work. You will be expected to be on top of your own work, and to have an idea of work that may need to be made up. We don't want excuses, we want you to be better.

I look forward to being a part of this exciting transition, and I know we will have an exciting and productive year together!

Best,

Mr. Tan

Class Expectations:

Our work in class is centered on the core values of the Wellesley Public Schools:

- Academic Excellence
- Commitment to Community
- Respect for Human Differences
- Cooperative and Caring Relationships

Attendance and Make-Up Work:

If you know you are going to be absent, please let me know beforehand to the best of your ability. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check Canvas, check a classmate regarding missed work, and/or email me with any questions. **You** are responsible for all work missed. Exceptions can be made in regards to emergencies. Please contact me if that is the case.

Most assignments can be made up regardless of how late they may be. However, once an assignment is late, the highest grade achievable will be a B. This excludes major projects or papers.

In accordance with the WHS English Department, major papers or projects will have a late penalty of 10 points on the first late day and 5 points for every subsequent day. Weekends and drop days count as late days.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating shows a lack of respect for self and for others. Taking shortcuts is cheating. Plagiarism is cheating. If you are unprepared for a quiz, or if you are about to miss the deadline for a paper, accept your responsibility by speaking to me honestly and accepting the consequences. Do not be tempted by the great pressures on you to look for another way out. I take all forms of cheating very seriously and will follow school policy (please see the "Academic Integrity" section of the Student Handbook).

Phones and Electronics:

Unless otherwise stated, all cell phones and electronic devices should be put away during the class period. We will use your laptops frequently in class this year, so please make sure to charge them at night.

Writing Conferences/Extra Help:

I am available to meet with you to review past work, assist with upcoming essays, or address other concerns. I encourage you to set up a time with me after school or in the morning to discuss questions you have on your assignments. *I am available all week for extra help, but an appointment must be made over email a day in advance to give both yourself and me to prepare materials for said meeting..*

Curriculum:

Classwork and Participation (20%):

I will ask you to be an active member of our class discussions by asking questions, responding to questions, listening to and respecting others, and arriving on time. Your participation grade in class will be based on your behavior, attendance, and overall class performance. Many of the texts we cover will inspire provocative discussion that will be greatly improved with positive class participation and mutual respect for one another.

Homework (20%):

Most of your homework in this class will consist of reading for the next day. You can expect about 25 pages of reading per class period, and there will often be guided reading questions to answer or a writing assignment related to the reading. Homework is usually due at the start of class because we will often relate the classwork to last night's reading. Not all homework will be collected. If a homework assignment is not collected, then you will be held accountable by being prepared for class discussions/activities.

Quizzes (25%):

Due to the amount of reading we will have, you should expect there to be quizzes on the reading assignments. These quizzes will be both announced and unannounced. You should also expect announced quizzes on vocabulary and literary terms.

Projects/Essays (35%):

Because this is an English class, the majority of your assignments will be formal and informal writing assignments. Test grades will include in-class essays, projects, or end of the unit exams. A significant portion of your grade will also include proof of the revision process. In order to be successful in this class, you will be encouraged to reflect on your strengths and weaknesses throughout the year.

Course Syllabus:

Below is a list of the central units and texts that we will cover this year in class:

Overarching themes:

- o Who and what determines who I am? What does it mean to be 'from' a place? How does where we are from influence who we are?
- o How do we understand ourselves not only as individuals but also as parts of diverse communities? How are decisions made about who belongs and who does not?
- o What constitutes right and wrong in a changing world?

Central texts:

Dragon Hoops by Gene Leun Yang

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka

Various Short Stories