



Syllabus
Grade 8 English
2015-2016 School Year

Mr. Bono - jbono@asm.ac.ma, 0524 32 98 60, asmmsenglish.weebly.com

EXPECTATIONS: All students are expected to be heroes in the classroom.

- **H**onesty: Submit only original work. Give credit to others when using their words and ideas.
- **E**ffort: Make your best effort at all times. Consider that your participation and schoolwork are a reflection of who you are. If something is easy for you, challenge yourself to go farther. If something is difficult for you, be persistent and ask for help.
- **R**espect: Treat all others with respect and consider the impact of your words and actions on others. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Being respectful includes apologizing for and repairing any damage that you have done on purpose or by accident.
- **O**rganization: Organization means preparation and punctuality. Be on time with all required materials and assignments.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bound notebook filled with lined paper (tall, at least 100 pages)
- Two-ring binder for keeping handouts and loose sheets (not just a folder with pockets)
- Blue or black ink pens (multiple, in case one runs out)
- Pencils and sharpener
- Colored pencils (6-12)
- Post-It sticky notes for annotating texts
- A portfolio envelope (a "Friday" folder)

SUMMER READING:

Students were informed in writing and verbally prior to the end of the end of the 2014-2015 school year that they were responsible for summer reading - *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. All students should have completed this assignment prior to the start of school. Students will have a quiz on Friday, September 4, to assess whether the reading was done. This will be a part of students' grades. In addition, we will be using this text for much of the first nine weeks of school, so a number of additional assignments affecting students' grades will depend on having read the book. Students who have not done the reading for any reason should begin immediately and should complete the reading as quickly as possible in addition to all other class assignments and homework.



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COURSE OVERVIEW

The overarching theme of Grade 8 English is “Partnerships”. The course will be organized into four thematic units, each with essential questions, and will include reading and analysis of the texts listed as well as shorter supplementary texts not listed here. In the course, students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and grammar in English to prepare them for AP English, coursework at competitive universities in the US or internationally and career readiness.

Unit	Theme	Essential Questions:	Primary Texts
1	Friendship and Adversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. How does literature reflect the time period in which it was written? • 2. Why is theme important? • 3. How do writers tailor their writing for a specific purpose and audience? 	<i>Of Mice and Men, To Kill a Mockingbird*</i>
2	The Art of Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do these works and authors have a message for me today? • How does literature reflect the time period in which it is written? • How do effective writers hook and hold their readers? • How do I listen? 	<i>Victorian Short Stories: Treasure in the Forest, The Black Cottage, The Black Cat*, The Adventure of the Speckled Band, Romeo and Juliet*</i>
3	Detective Fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does an understanding of the different genres and their characteristics help the reader better comprehend the meaning of text? • How do writers tailor their writing for a specific purpose and audience? • How do film techniques influence our understanding of character, mood, plot and theme? 	<i>Hound of the Baskervilles, Tokyo Heist*</i> ,
4	Being Civilized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to be civilized? • Is humankind inherently good or evil? 	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>

* - Texts with an asterisk beside them may be included with a different unit as part of the English curriculum review.

WRITING AND PORTFOLIOS

During the school year, students will do a range of extended writing - both timed writing and process writing - including at least 2 narrative, 2-3 persuasive essays, 3-5 responses to literature,



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and a final exam. Students will be responsible for keeping their writing as part of a portfolio which will be as a major grade assignment at the end of the year.



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GRADING SCHEME - 8th Grade

Our grading scheme is designed in order to transition students from the expectations of primary education through secondary and into tertiary. Therefore, we look to increase the weight assigned to major pieces of work as a student moves up through the school.

We divide our grades into four sections:

Major Assignments and Tests: This comprises of large essays*, reports*, projects*, and tests.

**This work is modelled extensively, and students are given ample time to complete it (a minimum of one week).*

Minor Assignments and Quizzes: This comprises of summaries and analyses of sections of texts being studied, journal entries, components of major homework (e.g. Essay plans, 1st drafts, portions of a reading guide).

Classwork: This comprises of work done in class, such as debates, in class writing responses, and note taking.

Bonus points: Students are awarded 25 bonus points at the start of the trimester, and receive further bonus points for showing good character, playing a critical role in discussions, engaging well with material, and performing above expectations. Points are deducted for tardiness (-1 when a student is less than 5 minutes late, and -2 for any further lateness. This does not detract from any further consequences given for excessive tardiness such as detentions and in school suspensions, as determined by the administration). Points can also be deducted if a student fails to participate in class, disrupts the class, or fails to uphold the values that ASM has stipulated in its character guides.

Major Assignments and Tests	=	40%
Minor Assignments and Quizzes	=	30%
Classwork	=	25%
Bonus Points	=	5%



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MISSING ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

- In the event of an EXCUSED absence, all assignments (tests and quizzes included) MUST be made up within 2 DAYS of the student's return to school.
- Missed tests and quizzes must be made up before school, after school, or during break (not during class time) unless otherwise indicated by the teacher.
- In the event of an extended absence (i.e. more than 3 days), students should check with the teacher for an extension. Unless WRITTEN PERMISSION is obtained from the teacher on the day of the student's return to school, work must be turned in within 2 days of the student's return.
- Work not completed for reasons other than an EXCUSED absence CANNOT be made up unless the student obtains permission from the teacher. Permission will be granted only in extreme situations.
- **Late assignments will receive a maximum score of 50% credit for two days after the due date. Two days past a due date, students will be required to come in outside of class at a time set by the teacher (eg - break, lunch, during extra-curricular activities, or after school with agreement from his/her parent/guardian) to make up any incomplete assignments but will receive no credit.**
- Unless an absence is involved, a paper is considered late if it is not handed in when the rest of the class turns in their papers. (i.e. Students will not be allowed to go to their locker to get an assignment, to complete a paper and turn it in after class, to finish a paper in class, etc.)
- Assignments missed due to participation in ANY school activity are required to be made up; all missing assignment policies apply in this situation.
- In the event of an absence, students should check the class Web page - asmmsenglish.weebly.com - to view current assignments and notify the teacher upon her/his return to class.
- Following school policy, students absent for 10 or more classes will have their grade for the term reduced by 1% per absence.

I understand the above syllabus and class policies, as well as the fact that it is THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to find out what is missed due to an absence. I am aware that the student needs to check with a friend, the teacher, the missing assignment folder, or Mr. Bono's website (asmmsenglish.weebly.com) to obtain assignments and notes.

Student's Name (printed) and Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Name (printed) and Signature

Date