

Literature, Ethics, and Authority

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Course Novels/Dramas (this is a tentative list and is subject to change)

Jurassic Park

The Firm

Mila 18

The Hiding Place

Night

Titus Andronicus

Objectives: To study and evaluate the role of ethics and morals in literary works; to compare literature to real-world scenarios; and to study and evaluate social and cultural norms presented in the literature as they relate to ethics.

Grading:

Grades are based on weighted percentages as follows:

Daily Work/Quizzes/Tests/Projects/etc.: 75%

Participation: 25%

The final for this course will consist of a comprehensive test and an in-class essay.

The following scale is used:

A 96-100%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%
A- 90-95%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%
B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F Below 60%

Scheduled Work:

First Quarter: Focus on Technology and Community (*Jurassic Park*, Holocaust Novels, and *Titus Andronicus*)

Second Quarter: Focus on Business and Government (*The Firm*)

Class Format: While this class is considered to be an English *elective*, it is still a core class and will be treated as such. This course contains **extensive** reading and writing assignments. Students should be prepared to read every night and participate in whole group discussions the following day. Students will also be creating a variety of creative projects associated with the reading and will also be required to write proficiently in formal standard English.

Course Understandings and Procedures

Read each section thoroughly, place a ✓ next to understandings to indicate your willingness to comply with classroom rules and procedures.

Participation and Attendance: Daily points will be taken in this class. This grade will be based on *Preparation* and *Participation*—*Preparation*: having appropriate material and any homework, being in your seat when the bell rings prepared to work; *Participation*: actively contributing to the class in a positive manner. Disruptive or negative behavior will result in loss of points.

___ I understand I must be punctual to class. If I am not on time, I understand that I will be counted tardy and may be penalized by a loss of daily points and/or a detention. I understand that the policy concerning tardies in the student handbook will be followed in this class. If I am a first hour student, I understand that after two excused tardies a quarter, any subsequent tardies will be counted as such.

___ I understand that the definition for being on time is **being in my seat** and ready for work when the bell rings. Standing in the doorway or wandering the room constitutes a tardy.

___ I understand I must be prepared for class with pencil/pen, paper, agenda, notebook, textbook(s), current assignment, and required reading/study material.

___ I understand I am to remain in class for the full period and should not expect to run errands, make phone calls, etc. during class time. I understand that my teacher is aware that most “emergencies” are merely excuses to check text messages. I understand that if a unique situation exists, I will discuss the situation **before** class with the teacher or counselor.

___ I understand I **will not be** excused from class for an appointment without written authorization from another teacher, the principal’s office, or an intercom call. In addition to this, I understand that I should not schedule meetings with another teacher during class time without first discussing this with Ms. Latham.

___ I understand that visiting the nurse is allowed only in the **last** ten minutes of the class period unless an emergency arises. Further, I understand that if I visit the nurse, I will also return to class before the bell. Since the nurse is not to be visited between classes, I understand that a nurse’s note **will not excuse** me from a tardy to class without an accompanying note from the previous teacher who sent me to the nurse’s office.

___ I understand I must remain awake during class time. Further, I understand that if I nap, no information, assignments, or handouts will be available from the teacher.

___ I understand the teacher dismisses the class; the bell is only a signal and does not dismiss the class.

Late Work: Late work will **not** be accepted. If you do not have the assigned homework on the day it is due, fill out and turn in a homework slip in place of the missing work; have this ready before class if one is necessary.

ADVANCED WARNING: I will not accept a computer disc or jump drive in place of a written assignment or give you extra time because of computer problems. Do not procrastinate and always make hard copies of your work.

___ I understand that this class has no provision for late work. Homework is expected on the due date. Reduced credit for late work will not be offered. Work made up during detention will count toward a student’s notebook grade.

___ I understand homework is collected only at the beginning of the hour. Further, I understand that if I do not have my homework, I will fill out a missing assignment slip to document that fact. Upon turning in a second missing assignment slip, I will receive a detention.

___ I understand that if I am tardy to class on the day an assignment is due, it will not be accepted and will qualify as a *late assignment*. If I need to use a hall pass to go and get an assignment, I need to communicate this with my teacher prior to the tardy bell ringing.

Absences: If you are absent, you have time to make up the work from the day you were absent—in accordance with the handbook. It is your responsibility to get the work, ask any questions, and complete it by the date given to you.

Some facts you should know:

- 1) If work is not picked up in time, you will not be eligible to make it up. This includes tests.
- 2) If you miss the due date, I will not accept the work.
- 3) If you are going to be gone on a school sponsored trip, **YOU MUST ASK FOR YOUR WORK IN ADVANCE.**

- 4) Work due the day that you are gone on a school trip **MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE YOU GO**. This includes work and tests we will do that day in class.
- 5) If you fail to do numbers three and four, the work will not be accepted. Being gone on a school sponsored trip does not entitle you to extra homework time that other students do not have.

___ I understand all of the preceding about attendance as it pertains to assignments and homework including the following:

- A) Make-up work is my responsibility; I must get my work on the day I return to school.
- B) Previously assigned homework is due upon my return to school. Previously assigned due dates do not change because of absences.
- C) After missing only part of the day, any work due in this hour must be turned in upon checking in with the office.
- D) Assignments given in class the day of a school trip must be asked for *in advance* of the trip. Assignments due on the day of a school sponsored trip must be turned in *before departure* by one of the following methods:
 - 1) Send the work with a reliable student to turn in for me.
 - 2) Slide the work underneath the classroom door.
 - 3) Give the work to my teacher before I leave.
 - 4) Email the work to my teacher the night before.
- E) I understand I need to follow my teacher's classroom procedure for obtaining any work assigned during my absence(s). Further, I understand that interrupting class time is not the appropriate time for getting my assignments.

Tests: Makeup tests will be scheduled before or after school or during seminar following an absence. You have the same amount of days to make up a test as you do for homework. The same test will not necessarily be administered. If any extra credit was on the original test, it will not be a part of the makeup test.

Plagiarism: To plagiarize means "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use without crediting the source; to commit literary theft; present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source" (*Webster's* 898). Keep in mind that copying three consecutive words constitutes plagiarism as well as just using someone's ideas *even* if you put those ideas in our own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will receive an automatic zero. Any other type of dishonesty in work will also result in a zero.

___ I understand that in the case of plagiarism, I will NOT be given partial credit for the assignment; I will NOT be allowed to redo the assignment; and if a member of NHS, my sponsor will be notified immediately.

___ I understand that cheating on any assignment, whether that be homework, classwork, test, quizzes, or major projects will result in a zero and I will NOT be given partial credit for the assignment; I will NOT be allowed to redo the assignment; and if a member of NHS, my sponsor will be notified immediately.

___ I understand I must be academically honest in all of my schoolwork in accordance with Cole Camp High School's academic honesty policy.

Manuscripts: All final drafts must be typed or computer generated with the following guidelines: 1) 8 ½ by 11 white paper; 2) ½ inch margin at the top, 1 inch margins on sides and bottom; 3) 12 pt. pitch (font); 4) Times New Roman font; 5) Double spaced; 6) Black ink only.

___ I understand only hard copies of required computer-generated assignments are accepted unless otherwise indicated. If my computer fails, I understand that I must choose from one of the following options in order to turn in my assignment at the beginning of the class period:

- A) Handwrite the assignment in **black ink on unlined paper**. I understand that in order to substitute for a computer-generated paper that the black ink and unlined paper must be used. Further, I understand that this

solution is not a permanent solution. I will need to speak with my teacher to arrange for typing time to meet class requirements (in particular for honors classes).

- B) Email my paper ***as an attachment*** to my teacher at the following address: lathamb@colecamp.k12.mo.us. If this option is used, I understand that when ***I arrive at school in the morning*** that I should inform my teacher to print the attachment so that it is ready to be turned in at the beginning of the hour. Further, I understand that I should email a **sample attachment from my word processor** (not just an email) to my teacher to test this option—If you do not do this prior to Aug 31st, you will not be allowed to use this option later in the semester.
- C) Email my paper ***as an attachment*** to a reliable friend who will print my paper for me.
- D) Bring in a disc or jump drive with my saved paper to the library (**not the classroom**) and print my assignment. The following word processing programs are available:
 - 1) Microsoft Word
 - 2) Corel Word Perfect
 - 3) Wordpad/Notepad
 - 4) Microsoft Works

*If you do not have access to these programs save your work as a RTF—Rich Text Format. I understand that the disc/jump drive itself ***will not*** be accepted at the beginning of the hour when the assignment is due.

**** ___ I understand that if one of these options is not used and I do not have a hard copy of my assignment on the due date at the beginning of the hour, I will fill out a homework slip and receive a ZERO for the assignment.**

Written Work: All papers written for my English or literature courses must be supported by your own background work and documentation (as it applies). I will not accept an unsupported paper. In other words, you may not just turn in a final copy. I require copies of the work that led to the final copy.

MERCYDAY: I understand that “*things*” come up; life happens. For every written assignment—composition papers only—in this class there will be an assigned “*MercyDay*.” This is a day when you may turn in your paper without any grading consequence. For example, if a paper is due on August 21st, the *MercyDay* will be on August 22nd. This does not mean you should procrastinate until the last minute and always turn your written paper in on the *MercyDay* because if you are absent on the assigned date, your paper is automatically due on the *MercyDay* (or your next day in class), no exceptions or extensions; if you are at school on the assigned day but decide to turn your paper in on the *MercyDay*, but you are absent on the next day, your paper will be counted as late, which equals a zero; each student may only utilize two *MercyDays* within any given semester.

Hall Passes: Each student will be given two hall passes at the beginning of each quarter. Hall passes will be attached to the student’s agenda. The teacher is not responsible for lost or stolen agendas. Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom for any reason if they do not have their agenda. Hall passes may be used to visit the nurse, lockers, office, library, or the restroom. Whether or not a student is allowed to leave the classroom is solely at the teacher’s discretion—meaning, don’t disrupt my instruction with a request to leave. Hall passes or agendas may not be shared with another student. Unused passes may be redeemed at the end of the quarter for bonus points (10 per pass).

Behavior/General Information

___ I understand that electronic devices of any sort are **NOT** allowed in this classroom. I understand that this includes iPods, mp3s, digital eReaders, cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. I understand that if I have one of these devices on my person it must be turned off and out of sight—this includes item accessories as well, such as head phones. I understand that failure to follow this rule will result in a detention—no exceptions.

___ I understand that work from other classes will be permanently confiscated.

___ I understand that polite and appropriate behavior is expected. I will keep derogatory comments about other students or teachers out of the classroom. I understand that I will use appropriate language in the classroom. Further, I understand that I will be removed from the classroom if I engage in inappropriate behavior.

___ I understand I will keep beverages or snacks/food out of the classroom unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. This includes finishing parts of breakfast or lunch within the room.

___ I understand I am to refrain from writing/carving upon my desk or in my textbook—This is considered vandalism and will result in an automatic detention—no exceptions.

___ I understand written assignments must meet certain guidelines which include the following:

- A) My writing must be legible. I understand if the writing is not legible to my teacher or my peer reviewer that the item or assignment will not be graded.
- B) The assignment must be identified by name, date, class period, and assignment. I understand that if I fail to identify my paper, it may not be recorded.
- C) The paper itself should be neat and free of ragged edges.

___ I understand that if a perceived discrepancy exists between the computer grade record and the score on the student paper, my **original graded paper** must be produced in order for the grade to be changed. I also understand if I wish to dispute a grade, this issue must be brought to the teacher's attention before the next grading period which includes mid-term.

___ I understand that any individual concerns which I might have about my grade, other student's behavior, etc. should be addressed to my teacher during my teacher's conference time or some other scheduled time.

___ I understand that in order to succeed and learn I must actively participate in class activities in a way my teacher can **see and hear**.

___ I understand that any rules stated within the student handbook apply within this class even if not stated in these student understandings.

___ I understand whether I have or have not followed or whether I will or will not receive disciplinary action regarding these understandings is at my teacher's discretion based upon individual circumstances.

___ I understand my teacher has the right to teach, and I have the right to learn.

___ I understand that neither I nor another student has the right to interfere with the above rule.

___ I understand that I and my parent/guardian are responsible for fully reading the class syllabus and asking any questions concerning the class at the beginning of the semester. I understand that signing this document is an acknowledgement that I and my parent/guardian have read and will abide by the information in the syllabus as well.

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Student Name (printed): _____

After reading through the syllabus and asking any questions, please sign below indicating you understand what is expected in this course and within this class setting. Please take this document home and have a parent review the class syllabus and understandings as well. Signing this document with you and your parent's signature is your first assignment and will count as a grade.

_____ Date _____
Student signature

_____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian signature

The signed copy of this document is due to Ms. Latham by Friday, August 26th.

