

**Ms. Jill Smith
Balboa High School
Room 300**

I. Course Overview:

Are you satisfied with the world as it is? Welcome to English 2 and “The World As It Could Be!” In this course we will change the world! More specifically, we will study short stories, novels, news articles, songs, and poems from diverse voices as we engage an internal and external exploration of universal human rights. Our reading, writing and discussions will reflect Balboa’s commitment to social justice, self-discovery, and responsibility. Our ultimate goal is to continue to grow and develop as human beings while becoming more skilled readers, writers, and learners who can speak our minds as active agents of change in our schools, communities, and world.

Semester One: Human Rights—A Personal Connection

- Who am I? What role does family, heritage, language, and culture play in shaping my identity and the diverse identities of those around me?
- What makes us human? How does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights define and outline our common humanity? How can we use theater and the arts to express our humanity?
- What are our responsibilities and obligations to each other as human beings?

Our reading and writing the first semester will focus on personal narrative, poetry, songwriting and spoken word performance. Combining our personal writing with theater games, movement techniques, and the visual arts we will create a class performance piece to be presented at Balboa’s annual “The United States As It Could Be” assembly on December 10th.

Semester Two: Becoming Agents of Change

- What social issues concern me the most, and what can I do about them?
- How have people from different countries and time periods challenged and overcome injustice and enacted change?
- How do our personal struggles help us to develop the resilience to change ourselves and our communities?

Identity. Culture. Racism. Sexism. Homophobia. Gender Roles. Relationships. Environmental Issues. In the second semester it all comes together as we apply what we’ve learned about human rights and focus on changing ourselves, our neighborhood, our country, and our world. We will read and do research to formulate presentations and persuasive arguments around current human rights issues. We will synthesize what we’ve learned into a final action project that educates others and articulates our personal vision of the world as it could be.

II. Learning Objectives:

Throughout the year I will challenge you to think critically as you practice skills of applying, synthesizing, and evaluating ideas from a variety of texts. You will develop your academic vocabulary, reading fluency, and love of reading. You will write a number of compositions from different genres, respond to and analyze literature, and practice and develop your speaking and writing skills using standard English conventions.

III. Expectations:

In this class we will **work our minds to grow our brains!** We understand that intelligence and skills as readers and writers grow with individual persistence and effort. To build the strongest possible learning community where everyone can stretch and grow, I expect that you will **BE KIND and WORK HARD.** To that end I expect you will

- treat yourself, your teacher and your classmates with respect
- come to class on time and prepared with all necessary materials
- make your best effort daily on all classwork and homework
- participate actively in discussions, theater games and movement exercises (even if they seem strange at first)
- take responsibility for your own learning and come for help when you need it

IV. Materials:

Being organized is essential for success in school and in life. The following materials must be brought to class every day:

- **Independent reading book.** Checked out from the class, school, or public library. You will read this book in class as well as for homework nightly.
- **Reading journal.** For recording reading responses and creating your personal dictionary
- **Three ring binder.** Include dividers (you can use colored paper) and lined writing paper. Binders may be stored in class.
- **Any assigned homework**
- **The novel/short story we are currently reading**

V. Assignment Expectations:

To receive full credit for your assignments

- All answers must be your own, not copied from anyone else. Sources must be quoted and cited, not copied and plagiarized.
- All work must have a title that is specific to that assignment (not "Homework" or "Classwork").

- Your name, class period and date must be in the upper right-hand corner of the paper.
- All written/typed assignments must be in organized TEA paragraphs (except poetry!)
- Writing must be edited and free of basic spelling and grammar mistakes.
- Hand-written assignments must be legible in dark pencil or black or blue pen.
- Paper must be clean and professional looking, free of “shreddies,” stains, etc.
- Paper must meet sentence or page- length requirements.

VI. Grading Policy:

All assignments—big and small—are worth points, which add up to determine your grade at the end of each six-week grading period. Each of the grading periods are weighted equally and combined with the final exam to determine your final semester grade.

Each Grading Period:
Classwork & Homework=30%
Tests and Quizzes=25%
Papers and Projects=30%
Participation=15%

Final Semester Grade	
1 st Grading period	25%
2 nd Grading period	25%
3 rd Grading period	25%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

90-100%=A 80-89%=B 70-79%=C 60-69%=D 59% or less=F

VII. Late Work Policy:

- Each assignment has a set due date and is should be turned in at the beginning of the period unless otherwise arranged with me. Anything after that is late. All late work will be marked down ten percent for each day it is late.
- In the case of an **excused** absence, you have two extra days for each day excused.
- In the case of an **unexcused** absence, you receive no additional time.

VIII. Attendance and Classroom Policies:

- You must be in class on time, every day, with all of the things you need for class.
- If you are absent, you must bring a re-admit slip from the attendance office or your absences will not be excused.

- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to see me for any makeup work, preferably in the morning or at study hall before class on the day your return. If you know you will miss a day, please let me know ahead of time.
- If you are tardy, you must have a pass. If you have no pass, the tardy will be unexcused.
- Three or more unexcused tardies or three or more unexcused absences in a grading period will result in a U citizenship mark on your report card.
- You may eat in class (no chips or candy) as long as you stay focused in class and clean up after yourself. Bring a water bottle to water your brain!
- Use the bathroom and drink water at the fountain before class. No bathroom breaks during the first/last 10 minutes of class.

IX. Contact Information:

Please contact me and see me for help or to answer any questions!

- You may email me through School Loop or at smithj@sfusd.edu
- You may call me at school at 469-4090. Please leave a message with the secretary if I cannot answer.
- You may come to my room at lunch or during study hall.
- I encourage you to take advantage of Balboa's After School tutoring program, available Monday through Thursday.

X. Parents: Registering for SchoolLoop (SFUSD's online grading/communications system)

1. Go to SchoolLoop's homepage: <http://bhs-sfusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>
2. Click on "Register Now"
3. Click on "Parent Registration"
4. Fill out all fields
5. Click "Register"
6. One of your child's teachers must verify you through SchoolLoop, and then you will be able to sign on with the login name and password you chose as you registered, at the same website as above

English 2: Classroom Expectations Signature Sheet

Please read this packet with your parent/guardian, then sign this sheet and remove it from the packet. You should keep the packet at in your binder for reference, and return this signed sheet by Monday.

Student

I, _____, have read the course expectations and syllabus for English 2.

I agree to BE KIND and WORK HARD.

I agree to treat myself, my teacher, and my classmates with respect.

I agree to come to class on time and prepared with all necessary materials.

I agree to make my best effort daily on all classwork and homework.

I agree to participate actively in discussions, theater games, and movement exercises.

I agree to take responsibility for my own learning and come for help when I need it.

X _____

Parent/Guardian

I, _____, have read and understand the course expectations and syllabus for English 2.

X _____ Phone number: _____