

EXTRA HELP — Don't **ever** be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We can arrange a meeting at lunch, after school, or some other time to work together. My job is to help you succeed.

GRADES — Your grade will be based on your completed assignments, projects, and essays. The point values for each assignment will vary; however, I will inform you of what each assignment is worth. Class participation will also play a factor in the grade you earn. Being that we will work in groups quite often, it is easily apparent to your group members (and me) how much effort you are putting into this class.

GRADING SCALE — We will follow a basic grading scale for this class:

100 — 90 percent will earn an "A"

89 — 80 percent will earn a "B"

79 — 70 percent will earn a "C"

69 — 60 percent will earn a "D"

59 percent and below will earn a "U"

HALL PASSES — Our time together is limited and there is much to be done. Also, students are not to be in the hallways when class is in session. Keeping these two things in mind, there will be NO passes issued to use the bathroom, go to your locker, etc. Use your lunch period or time between classes to take care of what you need to do. Though I realize there will be some emergencies for which rare exceptions will be made, I will STRICTLY adhere to this policy.

HOMEWORK — Please refer to the attached page for the Homework Policy. However, I would like to stress that I do not "give" you grades...you earn them. DO THE ASSIGNMENTS AND HAND THEM IN ON TIME. It is that simple. Homework is due at the beginning of class. Do not try to finish a past due assignment while we are moving on to another lesson...at that point, the assignment is considered late, which brings us to...

LATE WORK — I do not accept late work. As a student at Riverside, you are expected to be responsible and serious about your studies. Of course, there may be extenuating circumstances in certain situations, in which case you must consult with me in order to gain an extension.

PEN VS. PENCIL — Per English Department policy, all assignments are to be done in pen. If you hand in an assignment done in pencil, it will be handed right back to you. This is a school-wide policy for all English classes, not just mine. The only thing you will need a pencil for in my class is tests done on Scantron, and I will provide you the pencil.

PLAGIARIZING/CHEATING — As the years go on, I find that my biggest pet peeve is cheating. In brief, I have no tolerance for it. If you copy an assignment, regardless of its nature, you will receive a zero, and that

particular assignment will be placed in a folder that will be given to your parent or guardian come conference time.

RESPECT —The most important element of a classroom is respect. I promise to always respect you and your viewpoints. In exchange, I require you to a) respect me and b) respect your classmates. I should warn you that I have an extremely low tolerance for those who do not show respect to other students. By respecting one another, we create an environment conducive to learning. I also expect everyone in this room to exercise common courtesy (waiting one's turn to speak, respecting one another's space, and saying "please" and "thank you").

RESPONSIBILITY — You are no longer children...you are all young ladies and gentlemen. As such, you are expected to handle your business appropriately. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COME TO CLASS PREPARED.** This means having your textbook, pens, binder, and student planner. I will be checking for these items and you will earn points. In other words, being prepared for class is part of your grade. While we are on the subject, I want to state that I am not a store...if you do not have a pen or your book, I will not provide you with one. Do not blame me for your inability to participate that day...it is your responsibility to be prepared.

SCHOOL RULES — Though I have certain classroom rules, we also **MUST** follow the rules of the entire school. This means that:

- food or drink is not allowed
- electronic devices (cell phones, CD players, etc.) should neither be heard nor seen
- jackets and headgear must remain stored in your lockers

If you bring these items into my room, I will take them away from you and you can retrieve them from the administrator's office at the end of the day. I implore you to work with me and avoid getting us into a bad situation. These are the rules, and we ALL must follow them.

Your first assignment is to have your parent or guardian read and sign this syllabus. This syllabus is then to be placed as the very first page of your binder. On Monday, September 8th, I will be checking your binders for this signed syllabus and the appropriate dividers. This assignment is worth 20 points.

Parents: Please read over this syllabus and sign on the given line to acknowledge you understand the requirements for my course.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

SYLLABUS FOR MR. OROZCO'S CLASS

Consider this a rough outline of what you can expect in my class over the next year. This schedule may change due to the needs of the students.

UNIT TITLE OR THEME	WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN?	WHAT EXACTLY WILL WE DO?
Essays	Ongoing	We will do much writing in this course; essay assignments will vary.
Business Letters	Ongoing	We will practice formal communication throughout the year.
Grammar	Ongoing	Grammar will be a constant presence throughout all lessons.
Journal writing	Ongoing	Weekly journal topics will vary and will require expression of feelings and opinions.
Advertising	Fall	Students will critically look at images in today's society.
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	Fall	Students will discuss theme, characterization, and the Great Depression.
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Fall/Winter	Students will read the play, identify themes and characters, and learn various Shakespearean techniques and terms.
<i>The Odyssey</i>	Winter/Spring	Students will read Homer's epic, identify characters and Greek gods/goddesses, and see how this ancient work influences other pieces of art.
Family 5 Research Project	Spring	Students will work on a multi-faceted project that will incorporate a variety of subject areas.
<i>The Alchemist</i>	Spring/Early Summer	Students will read this Coelho's novel, identify themes and characters, and discuss one's own Personal Legend.

Mr. Orozco's Homework Policy

Riverside's Homework Policy:

The policy of Riverside University High School is to assign homework in all classes. Research has demonstrated that schools that require homework show higher student achievement than schools that make little use of it. Increased homework time results in higher grades for students of all ability levels. Homework also develops responsibility, self-reliance, and resourcefulness which are requisite skills for success in post-secondary endeavors.

Student Guidelines:

- write all homework assignments and due dates in your planner clearly and accurately
- be neat and accurate; show pride in your work
- all homework must include a heading (name, date, hour)
- have your completed homework **in class, on time**, at the beginning of class
- devise a system for keeping returned homework in preparation for final exams

Student Consequences:

- all work is to be completed; full credit can be earned for homework turned in on time.
- late homework is discouraged and will not be accepted.

Students who are involved in in-house field trips and music lessons:

- are to turn in their homework and get their assignments *before* leaving for the event
- are responsible for making up any classwork and/or missed instruction

Students who are absent should:

- contact the teacher upon their return to find if they've missed instruction of a new concept
- understand that the teacher may not be able to address their concerns immediately at the beginning of class; they may have to wait for an appropriate time

Homework Frequency and Duration:

- homework is a component of the grade in this course.
- students should expect homework to be assigned about 3 days per week.
- students participating in activities or holding a job are still expected to do their homework

Homework Guidelines for Parents/Guardians:

- present a positive attitude toward homework; schedule it as a priority
- ask your child to show you his/her daily planner and explain his or her homework to you
- **please** do not do your child's homework, but be available to review it with your child
- encourage responsibility--you don't **have** to bring homework to school if it was forgotten at home.

If you have any questions about this homework policy or any homework assignment during the semester, please contact me at this number: (414) 906.5164.