Welcome to class! Today everyone begins with a clean slate. All problems or achievements are in the past. I challenge you to resolve to do your best and to learn to think in a new way.

This can be a difficult class. This means you will need to do your best work to be properly rewarded. I will help you in any way that I can; all you need to do is to ask for my help.

You are here to learn how to read with understanding, write academically and articulate ideas in a scholarly way. You will teach yourself details and facts. I will be your guide. Together we will discuss ideas, struggle with them, internalize them and write them cogently.

Please bring to class each day a pen (blue or black ink), a sharpened pencil and writing paper. Learning requires self-discipline, and bringing materials to class is a way of learning self-discipline. If you will not do this, please transfer to another class today.

Much of the class discussion material is not found in your textbook(s). Regular and punctual attendance is expected. I promise that I will be prepared to stimulate thought each day. You need to be prepared to learn and to accept responsibility for your actions.

All missed class work of any kind will be subject to a deduction in points of 10% per day until it is made up. After 7 days, the maximum score possible for any class work missed will be 50% of the original points possible on the missed class work. If late or unexcused from class, no points will be given for any missed work. If excused, all work, which you are missing, will not be subject to a 10% point deduction until two days after returning from your absence. There are no exceptions to this make-up policy. You are responsible to keep track of the times you are absent or tardy. Please re-read this paragraph!!

All tests will be multiple choice and/or essay. Quizzes may be given without prior notice, but if you are prepared, you have no need to fear.

Citizenship counts for 20% of your grade. Final term grades will be based on the following scale (The total number of points possible per term will be the number of points earned by the top student in the class.): 95-100 A; 90-94 A-; 85-89 B+; 80-84 B; 75-79 B-; 70-74 C+; 65-69 C; 60-64 C-; 55-59 D+; 50-54 D; 45-49 D-; 0-44 F.

It is expected that all Advanced Placement (AP) students will take the AP Exam for their respective subject in May. Concurrent Enrollment students are encouraged to take AP Exams, but they are not required to do so. Any other student seeking an exemption from taking an AP Exam must petition Mr. Bird for permission to do so.