

ENGLISH SYLLABUS

2014-15

In the classic Sci-Fi movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*, a computer named HAL 9000 endangers the life of astronaut Dr. Dave Bowman after it kills his companions, deeming the humans to be a threat to the success of the mission. The film's take on the themes of humanity and technology earned it many awards, leading to the U.S. Library of Congress's decision to preserve it forever in the National Film Registry.



Welcome to English

"I am putting myself to the fullest possible use, which is all I think that any conscious entity can ever hope to do." —HAL 9000

The above quote is the summary of a computer's existence—to put itself to its "fullest possible use." Unfortunately, in order to live out its own motto, HAL decided to murder the very astronauts he was tasked to assist on a mission to Jupiter. Human error, it decided, was more of a threat to the mission than anything else, so eliminating the scientists aboard the ship would, according to its calculations, increase the odds of completing the mission successfully. You'll have to watch the movie to find

out what happens to the remaining crew member!

As we explore themes in literature, we will wrestle with issues that haunt humanity. Where do we find our courage? Where do we locate our identity? What makes (or breaks) a hero? How far should we go in the name of love? By thinking critically about these themes, we will, hopefully, become well-rounded, conscious citizens, capable of putting ourselves to our best possible use.

Expectations for the Classroom and Technology

Classroom Expectations

All classroom expectations reflect the three core principles of Civic Memorial: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. Please refer to the handbook for school-wide policies.

Be Respectful

Please allow everyone the same opportunity to participate. Do not interrupt or speak out of turn. Listen carefully to instructions and follow them. Pay attention to all presentations and be prepared to answer questions when called upon. Treat all objects in the class with respect; you may be asked to help replace goods damaged by vandalism or negligence.

Be Responsible

Please be on time to class—"on time" is in your designated place at the second bell. Have your work ready and materials present when class begins. This includes making sure that your laptop is in working order and charged. Please turn off electronic devices prior to entering the room; only use laptops when instructed.

Be Safe

Please refrain from running or horseplay in the room and halls, and keep your hands to yourself.

Use materials and tools safely and wisely.

No food or drink is allowed in the class unless otherwise noted.

If you notice a hazard, please report it to the teacher immediately.

Following all instructions carefully will maintain a safe environment.

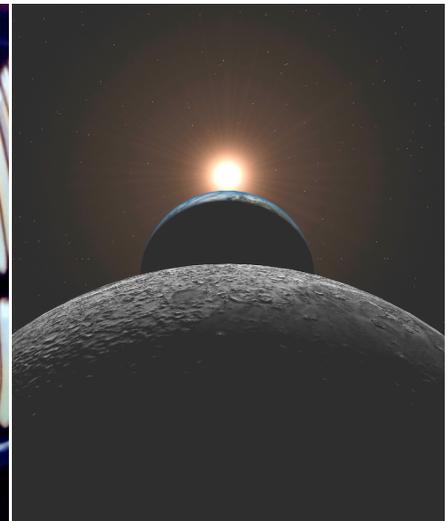
"It can only be attributed to human error"
HAL 9000, in response to a malfunctioning ship part

Technology Expectations

The laptops are essential to class, so please keep yours clean and in working order. It is on loan to you, so please treat it as borrowed property. Any damage that is not incurred through normal use will be charged to you. As such, follow the guidelines in the handbook to keep the laptop safe.

Please use the programs ONLY for their intended uses. Do not download illegal software or alter programs outside of their legal operations. Keep your private information secure. When signing up for programs, please be mindful of the information that you provide; if you have questions about your privacy, please ask a teacher or administrator for advice before continuing.

2001: A Space Odyssey is known for its ground-breaking special effects and minimalistic use of dialogue.



Policies for your own good

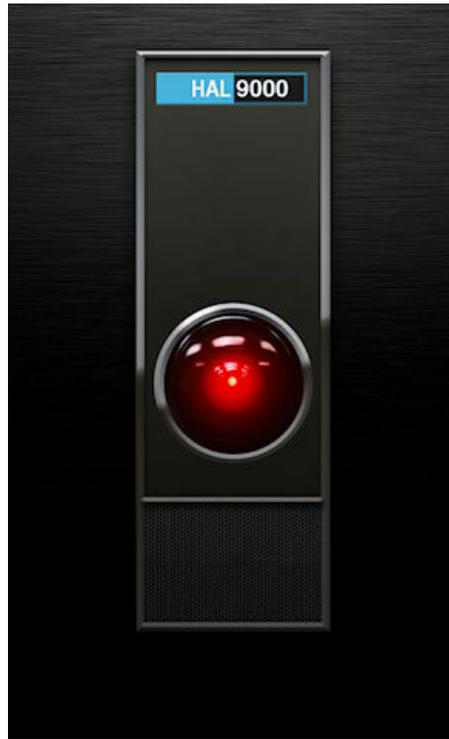
Absences

Any work missed during an absence is recorded as “MI” (missing) and a “0” in the PowerSchool grade book. Excused absences allow you to make up the work, but you are responsible for requesting the work on the first day of your return to class. Please keep in mind that messaging me through Schoology on the day of your absence allows you to receive the missed work immediately, giving you the most time to work on it. If you know of an upcoming absence, please notify me as early as possible. Work missed during an unexcused absence will not be received for credit.

Late Homework

Only major assignments, such as papers or projects, can be collected for late credit. Every class period that passes without turning in late work results in a letter grade penalty; work that is five or more days late cannot be submitted for credit. This includes online assignments!

Note: Late work is not accepted in the Honors program.



“I’m sorry, Dave, I’m afraid I can’t do that.”

HAL 9000, responding to Dr. Dave Bowman’s request to open a door blocking his way. During this scene, viewers were chilled by the computer’s open defiance of the humans who were supposed to be in control—now, millions of miles away from the nearest humans, the scientists worst fears are realized as HAL 9000 makes its cold, inhumane calculations.

Cheating

If your work is determined to be copied from another student(s), all students involved receive no credit for the assignment. Using outside help on a test, such as looking at another student’s work or using a cheat sheet, will result in a zero for the test.

Note: Cheating is grounds for removal from the Honors program. It may also affect your eligibility for certain organizations.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using other peoples’ work without giving them proper credit. It can range from missing in-text citations in MLA-format papers to blatant copying. Please follow all instructions regarding citations carefully to avoid plagiarism. Any plagiarism offense determined to be purposeful or negligent will result in a “0” for the assignment.

Note: Plagiarism is grounds for removal from the Honors program. It may also affect your eligibility for certain organizations.

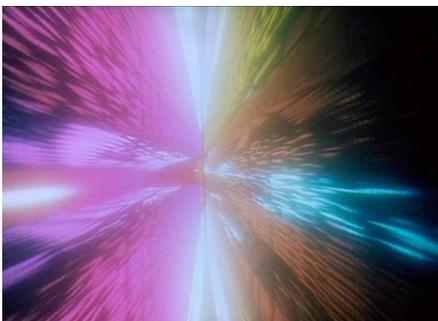
Reading Expectations for your reading pleasure

All students are required to read a “backbone” text outside of class as part of the routine assignments. Students are responsible for using the backbone text in weekly writing assignments and projects.

Reading time is built into the first 10 minutes of each class period. Students will have a chance to

read and/or listen to the text on their own, and points are given for having your books each day.

If you are having trouble meeting the requirements for outside reading, please contact me for assistance.



Reading can transport your mind to places you’ve never seen, much how like *2001: A Space Odyssey* transported viewers to an outer space never imagined before.



“Let me put it this way, Mr. Amor. The 9000 series is the most reliable computer ever made. No 9000 computer has ever made a mistake or distorted information. We are all, by any practical definition of the words, foolproof and incapable of error.”

HAL 9000, in response to a question regarding how it handles the pressure of the enormous responsibility of being the primary caretaker of the humans aboard the *Discovery One*.



Suggested and Required Programs to enhance your educational experience

Schoology

All students in my classes must be enrolled in Schoology. If you are absent on the day we sign up for the program, you are responsible for getting assistance. Please check Schoology frequently for updates on assignments, tests, and class activities. Keep track of your assignments and weekly discussions, and please turn in all digital work through the appropriate page on Schoology. If you have concerns with using Schoology, please discuss them with me as soon as possible.

Google Services

All students have a Google account, which includes email, cloud storage, and more. Your Google services are

an excellent way to conduct group work or save your information online for ease of access. We will use these services frequently in class, but it is up to you to remember to check your email daily for announcements and contact from the office. If you have questions about how Google Services can make your time in school easier, please talk to me at your convenience.

Evernote

Evernote is not required for all classes, but it is a valuable research and organization tool. If you are interested in using the program to make your time in school easier, please talk to me at your convenience. **NOTE: This is a required program for Honors.**