

English 1 Syllabus

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Description and Goals of the Course

This course is essential to your future English courses, and to your high school graduation. In addition to providing you with a foundation for higher level courses, this English I will prepare you for both the End Of Course (STAAR EOC) exam required for graduation, and the PSAT. English I focuses on developing strong reading and writing skills by examining multiple genres of reading and writing. Formal and informal opportunities to read and write occur daily. The course is divided into two 9 week periods. The first 9 weeks focuses on the reinvigoration of readers and writers. During this time, students will read from a variety of short stories, poetry, drama, and nonfiction selections. Writing will be expository in nature. The focus of the second 9 weeks is on building literary muscle. Students will apply their skills with more complex reading selections, and complex writing tasks.

Resources

Possible reading selections: various short stories, poems, and nonfiction selections, *Animal Farm*, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*, *The Odyssey*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Bless the Beasts and Children*.

Electronic Resources: Nearpod, Google Classroom, Adobe Spark, Kahoot, Apple Classroom, Pic Collage (This list is only a general reference. Other age appropriate apps may be used as they are discovered.)

Assessment/Late Work/Absent Work

The grading scale is broken into a 60/25/15 split. Major grades (tests, essays, projects) are worth 60%; quizzes are worth 25%; minor grades (daily classwork, homework) are worth 15%. If a student fails a **major assessment**, there is an option for reassessment for a **maximum grade of a 70**. The student is responsible for scheduling tutorials and a time to take the new assessment within one week of receiving a failing grade. Retests will not be offered beyond this time period.

A student has one day to make up assignments for each day the student has been absent. If a student is aware of a long standing due date(e.g.routine assignment due on the same day each week, project or essay due with due date known in advance), the expectation is that the student will turn in work on the given due date. **Missed tests and quizzes will be made up by appointment before or after school within a week of the absence to receive credit. If you schedule an appointment with me to make up a missed test/quiz, and you do not show**

up, TEN points will be deducted from the test/quiz. Again, you have one week to make up any missed test or quiz after which you will lose credit.

If a student fails to turn in the assignment on the due date, (s)he may turn the assignment in on the following class day. This assignment will be considered late and will receive a deduction of 30 points. Assignments will not be accepted more than one day late.

Academic Honesty

You must research, create, and compose your own essays and projects. If you incorporate research, you must appropriately document the source with citations and bibliographical entries. Do not copy another student's work whether it is a daily worksheet or another assignment. If you plagiarize or cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment, an office referral, and possibly fail the course. At times, you will grade your own work. Dishonest grading is cheating. **Talking and/or having your technology during a test will be considered cheating and result in a zero. You are responsible for your actions.**

Expectations

SSR: Students will read novels of their own choosing during SSR time. SSR in my classroom is to develop a like, love, tolerance, or passion for reading. There are not any major projects, but I will have conversations based around what you are reading. We will read for the last 10-20 minutes of each class period. Hard-copy books are preferred; however, if you download a book onto your iPad, you are held responsible for staying on-task. Anytime you are caught not reading your novel during SSR time, you will be asked to get a hard-copy book.

Daily: Students are expected to be prepared for this class each day. It is my expectation that students are in their seats and working on the daily warm up by the time the tardy bell rings. Students should have the required supplies with them each day. Students should have writing supplies (pens, pencils, paper) and their SSR book with them each class period.

Technology: It is expected that students bring their iPad/computer/tablet to class each day. Repetitive failure to come prepared will result in a teacher-assigned detention. For the majority of the tech based work we do, **A CELLPHONE WILL NOT SUFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY.** (If the student does not participate in the 1:X tech program, (s)he may check out a laptop from the library (if available). **There will be days that technology is not required.** On those designated days, you will be expected to keep your phones in the top bin of your group supply drawers. You may listen to music at appropriate times. **Any use of technology (when not designated) during instruction, tests, SSR, etc. will result in a discipline. Again, you are responsible for your actions.**

Discipline

1st offense- warning

2nd offense- teacher detention, parental notification

3rd or major offense- office referral, parental notification

*Repetitive behavior issues will result in immediate office referrals.

****We will use technology on a regular basis. Multiple technology infractions could result in loss of technology privileges.**

Supplies

Pen/Pencil

Notebook paper

Composition notebook

Red pen

Binder or folder (not necessary, but a good idea)

***Donations: Our classrooms are not supplied with tissues, hand sanitizer, or cleaning wipes. In an effort to cut down on absences due to illness, donations of these items are greatly appreciated.**

Keys to Success

- The more you participate in class and engage in our lessons, the more you will learn! Sitting quietly and doing the bare-minimum will not fly in English 1.
- Work hard everyday!
- Keep track of your work--it is your responsibility to approach me for missing work, questions about grades, extra help, etc.

You are responsible for your actions. You must be a willing participant in your education to be successful. Remember, if you're not willing to learn, no one helps you. If you're determined to learn, no one can stop you.