

English I



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Conference Period: 3rd Period (11:00 – 11:50 a.m.)

Tutoring Opportunities: Tuesdays: 4:30-5:00 p.m.; Thursdays: 8:30-9:00 a.m. *or by appointment with advanced notice*

Class Materials:

- Students need daily access to a computer with Internet capability
- Access to Canvas and Office 365 tools (*online resources will not be used as primary instructional tools but will house assessments*)
- Required materials:

Individual Supplies:

- Pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters
- Notebook paper
- Choice of: pocket tab in binder (such as an AVID binder); 1” binder with pocket tabs; a 3-subject spiral notebook with pocket tabs; **OR** a folder with brads and tabs

Classroom Supplies (choose one):

- Box of tissues
- Post-It Notes (regular or small-sized)
- Dry Erase markers

If a student is in need of a device outside of school hours, they may notify their English I teacher so that they may try and obtain a device for the student

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

In English I, students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. Students will read and write on a daily basis. Students read extensively in multiple genres, such as stories, dramas, novels, and poetry from world literature. Students learn literary forms and terms and interpret the possible influences of the historical context on a literary work. Rigorous writing instruction emphasizes organizing logical arguments, theses, and evidence. Writing instruction emphasizes sentence structure, paragraph development and development of comprehensive papers with focus on argument, research and description. Students will revise and edit their writing as part of the writing process. Composition practice is coordinated with guided reading of fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry. The course will focus on critical thinking skills, literary analysis and development of writing styles. English I students are required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) end-of- course (EOC) exam to meet part of the graduation requirements.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to read critically and become a more effective writer by studying the writer’s craft in literary fiction and non-fiction texts. They will develop reading stamina, comprehension, and analysis skills through independent reading, along with having opportunities to read in a group setting. Writing genres include literary nonfiction, literary analysis, correspondence, among others throughout the year, to best hone your own writing craft. They will also develop collaboration skills by sharing ideas about reading and individual writing with the teacher and classroom peers.

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 70% Major 30% Minor

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- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Each six weeks will count as 1/3 of the semester grade.
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student's conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), "The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments and quizzes. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

- All students shall be allowed to makeup work when they are absent from class. Students shall have a time equal to days absent from class plus one day to complete all missed assignments. Under extenuating circumstances such as long-term illness or family emergencies, teachers will work with the student to determine the due dates for make-up work missed. Teachers may reduce the length or number of assignments as long as the appropriate TEKS are covered. Students returning to class following an absence are responsible for discussing with the teacher and/or reviewing assignments in CANVAS what is to be completed and date for such completion, along with securing necessary materials and notes.
- Make-up work, including tests, at teacher discretion may be an alternate version of the original work as long as it is at the same level of cognition and covers the identical learning target(s). Make-up tests should be administered before or after school to prevent a student from missing additional class time. At a teacher's discretion, tests may be made up during the school day.
- Work, including tests, assigned prior to an absence may be due on the first return day

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

- 1 day late – maximum score is 80
 - A 100 would record as an 80 ($100 \times .80$)
 - An 80 would record as a 64 ($80 \times .80$)
- 2 days late – maximum score is 65
 - A 100 would record as a 65 ($100 \times .65$)
 - An 80 would record as a 52 ($80 \times .65$)
- 3 days late – maximum score of 55
- No late work will be accepted after 3 school business days, and a zero is recorded in the grade book.

Because tardiness disrupts the classroom and negatively affects the learning environment, students should arrive punctually to each of their classes. Students are allowed an adequate passing period to travel from one class to the next. Excessive unexcused tardies will be addressed by campus administration. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

All missed tests and quizzes must be completed outside of class time during tutoring times. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to take care of missed tests and quizzes. Major projects will be due on the due date. If the student knows about the absence in advance, the student should make arrangements to have the project turned in on the due date.

Classroom Expectations:

- Students will participate in a respectful manner at all times, both digitally and in-person.
- I will follow the school policy on tardies and attendance. You must be in your seat, with your materials on your desk, when I close my door in order to be on time.
- When on campus, please keep your food in the cafeteria or Bistro. You may have only a drink with a screw-on lid in the classroom.

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- Please make sure to use the facilities between classes. Students will not be able to leave class during direct instruction or during the first or last ten minutes of class time

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

- 1st 6 Weeks: Literary Nonfiction (various texts); Reading to Understand
- 2nd 6 Weeks: *Of Mice and Men*; Analyzing Telling Details
- 3rd 6 Weeks: Fiction, Informational, Poetry (various texts and book club options); Making Connections and Inferences across Genres
- 4th 6 Weeks: Poetry, Drama; “Romeo and Juliet”; Analyzing author’s voices
- 5th 6 Weeks: Multiple Genre Text Sets; High-stakes testing preparation
- 6th 6 Weeks: Fiction, Informational, Poetry (various texts and book club options); Making Connections and Inferences across Genres

Each six weeks, students will have three major grades. One of these major grades will be a District Common Assessment that assesses their understanding of the skills taught that grading periods. Another of these major grades will be a process writing piece that focuses on the students’ correspondence, informational, or argument writing skills.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student’s work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty, includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.