

# ENGLISH I

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**What you need:** There is no single textbook for this class, but I will assign a variety of readings. These will come to you as links in Google Classroom or as shared documents in Google Drive. In the case of longer readings (such as a novel), you will borrow a paperback copy, unless the book comes to you in digital form (Kindle, for example). For online reading and writing assignments, you need your iPad almost every time you come to class. Please keep it charged. You also need paper and something to write with, and you need your outside reading book.

## INTRODUCTION

This is a year-long required English class. It exists to help you improve your skills in the main areas of language use: reading, writing, listening, speaking.

In order to hold together the variety of activities in this class, I will organize the class around major themes, one each quarter. (Example: the theme for the first quarter is coming of age.) We will read about that theme (one full-length work, along with an array of shorter pieces—essays, stories, poems). We will write informally in response to those readings (and to some videos), sometimes writing about the theme but also using writing to help us analyze the techniques and structures (even grammatical ones) of the readings. And we will engage in larger projects, such as essays or presentations, related to the theme.

In class, you can expect to spend time reading silently, reading together, watching videos, responding to what we read/watch/discuss, working in groups, listening to me, occasionally taking quizzes, and working on larger projects. On your own time (mostly), you can expect to read two books per quarter, and produce and revise three projects per quarter (usually in writing, but not always). I don't give homework just for the sake of giving it, but some work is better to do on your own. People work at various speeds, of course, but my goal is to limit your out-of-class work to an average of two hours per week.

Beyond the academic content of English, this class should help you along the road to personal development. You will (we hope) improve your ability to keep track of deadlines, juggle multiple responsibilities, manage your time, cope with stress, and find resources (of which I am one). And because this is a Christian school, you will also mature in your discernment, deepen your relationship with Jesus, and think about God's calling in your life.

## GRADING

**In-class work:** Many class periods, I will ask you to complete at least one short informal assignment. This may be a paragraph that you write, a grammatical exercise, an artistic activity, or a group assignment. As a rule, these assignments should be done before you leave class. You mainly receive credit for doing these assignments (not based on their quality), though your work does need to be on target and complete. *30 percent of grade*

**Assessments:** You should learn some concepts in this class—literary techniques, grammatical terms, vocabulary, and other information covered in class. To check your understanding of those concepts, and also to verify that you are doing the assigned reading, I will sometimes have short quizzes. These will always be announced in advance, and they will vary in format. I will also look for other ways for you to show that you have read and understood. *30 percent of grade*

**Projects:** Twice a quarter, you will undertake a larger writing assignment than what we do in class. It could be a story, an essay, a research paper, or a literary analysis. Other projects involve presentations or participation in a group project (mock trial, for example). Whatever the project is, I will give you detailed instructions and grading criteria. You will produce a rough draft and receive feedback from me before you finish the project and get a grade for it. My expectations for these projects are high, but you will have ample time to work on them, and I will give you as much support as possible.

A third project for each quarter will involve outside reading. Each quarter, you need to read a book not assigned for this class. You get to choose that book, though some quarters I will ask you to choose a particular type of book. It needs to be at least 200 pages long, mostly text. I will give you options for how to respond to your book. *40 percent of grade*

Different assignments carry different weights, and it's good to be aware of that. A project, for instance, might be graded on a 20-point scale, but it has about 10 times the weight of a 10-point in-class assignment. Once all that weighting is taken into account, your grade boils down to a simple 93-90-87-83... (A is 93 percent or better, A- 90 to 93, and so on).

## POLICIES

**Turning work in:** Unless there's a reason for you to do an assignment on paper, you should plan to do your work electronically. Assignments usually come to you through Google Classroom, and that's where you will submit them.

**Late work:** In-class assignments should be finished before the end of class. If you need more time to finish an assignment, please let me know. Also please send me an e-mail when you have turned in a late assignment; otherwise I may not remember to grade it. On major assignments, I typically give you a couple of weeks to produce a rough draft, and then a week or so to revise the project. Late final drafts will be penalized 10 percent. Also, procrastinators be warned: I will only accept one major assignment from you during the final week of the quarter.

**Missing class:** When you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what assignments you missed and make them up within a week of your return to class. Google Classroom is quite helpful when it comes to seeing what you missed. You are also responsible for finding out what content we covered in class, as you might need that content for an assignment or quiz. To clarify an assignment or get some details about content, you can ask a trusted classmate or me. (Hint: The beginning of class is probably the worst time to ask me about what you missed. I recommend asking during work time.) If lots of you are missing, I'll try to e-mail details about what happened in class that day.

**Behavior:** Respect should characterize our interaction in this class. We demonstrate respect by listening to each other and not criticizing each other in a personal manner. We should also show respect for the class itself by dressing in uniform, speaking appropriately (no profanity, racist or sexist comments, or personal put-downs), caring for the classroom, and staying on task. I should demonstrate respect for you by speaking courteously to you, keeping you informed of deadlines and expectations, and handling inappropriate behavior privately if possible.

**Technology:** Technology should help us learn, but it can also interfere with learning. You will need your iPad in class regularly. I expect you to use it for reading and for completing assignments. Remember that the Internet can tempt us to cheat, which interferes with learning. Cheating can cost you dearly (see Academic honesty). Technology can also disrupt class. For that reason, *please use iPads for only the work we are doing, and keep your cell phone put away at all times.*

**Academic honesty:** Unless I assign a cooperative project, I expect you to complete your own work. If I suspect that all or a significant part of some work you submit comes from another (unacknowledged) source, published or not, I will ask you to provide evidence of your process in completing the assignment. If you cannot do so, I will consult professional colleagues. If we are convinced that you have plagiarized (stolen words from another source), you will receive no points for that assignment, and I may forward your case to school administration for further disciplinary action.

**Alternative learning:** WWVA has a good resource room. If you have a learning style or learning

disability that poses a major obstacle for you in completing the work for this course or following the procedures in this class, you and I can work with Mrs. Anderson to come up with accommodations that will empower you to succeed in this class.