

English I

MS. ROBINSON

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Course Description

This course will focus on the state standards for ninth-grade English Language Arts. According to the Tennessee Department of Education website, these standards “outline the reading, writing, language, speaking, listening, and research skills students will need to succeed in college and the workforce. With a renewed emphasis on the close reading of complex texts, especially literary nonfiction, the ELA standards require all students to graduate ready to read and respond to the academic and technical texts they will encounter throughout their adult lives.”

Some of the novel selections that may be used in class to support these standards include *Romeo and Juliet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and selections from *The Odyssey*.

Students will also be required to read one book outside of class each nine-weeks. These will include fiction and nonfiction texts and will be selected from a pre-approved list. Students will also be required to write and submit a report or project for each of these four books.

Classroom Policies

1. **Be Respectful:** I expect you to be respectful of me, of other students, and of the learning environment. This means no talking when I am talking, or when another student is asking a question or sharing an idea. Only supportive and constructive comments should be made in the classroom.
2. **Be Prepared:** I expect you to come prepared and to be ready and willing to learn and do what is asked of you.
3. **Be on time:** Please be on time to class and/or scheduled video meetings and submit assignments on time.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to complete each assignment, including homework, tests, quizzes, and essays, independently and without consulting parents, teachers, other students, or the Internet for explicit answers. (This is different than asking for help with a concept or clarifying instructions. Please contact me ASAP if you are confused about the assignment or are struggling with the material or reading.)

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment.

Grading Policy

Grades are calculated using a weighted percentage system

- Tests and Essays 40%
- Quizzes 30%
- Daily Grades (In-Class Work and Homework) 20%
- Participation and Reading Checks 10%

Grading scale: 100-93 A; 92-85 B; 84-75 C; 74-70 D; 69 and below F

Materials (for in-person instruction)

- 3-ring binder (your choice of size)
- five tab dividers
- College-ruled loose-leaf paper
- Pencils or pens (blue or black ink) for writing
- Red pen for editing
- Highlighter

Routines, Procedures, and Expectations

- **Make-Up Work:** When a student is absent from class, it is his/her responsibility to make up all assignments missed. S/he will have as many days as s/he was absent to complete the make-up work assignments. (For example, if you were absent Monday and Tuesday, you will have Wednesday and Thursday to complete the assignments, making them due on Friday.)
- **Late Work:** It is your responsibility to complete assignments on time. Late assignments will automatically result in a 70% and can be submitted no later than one week after the original due date. Students will receive a zero for assignments that they do not submit within a week of the due date. *Please see the English Department Policy on the school website for more information about late work and make-up work.*