

## Syllabus: *English I*

### Course Description

*English I is a thematic survey course designed to introduce students both to literature and to composition. The literature component exposes students to a range of genres from around the world and from various periods. Students explore the basic literary elements (character, plot, setting, theme, etc.) and learn how to apply these to the text. The composition component addresses the basic models and processes of writing. Students continue to develop an understanding of the grammar, mechanics, and conventions necessary to effective writing. This course requires a research paper.*

### Primary Text

- *Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes* Prentice Hall: Gold
- *Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers* Simon & Schuster

### Major Readings

- *The Pearl* John Steinbeck
- *The Odyssey* Homer
- *Romeo and Juliet* William Shakespeare

### Estimated Coursework

- 25 points Poem
  - 50 points Two Grammar Exams
  - 75 points Three Essays
  - 100 points Ten Grammar Quizzes
  - 100 points Four Unit Exams
  - 100 points Research Paper
  - 200 points Homework
- 650 points Total
- Semester Exam = 20% of Overall Semester Grade
  - Final Exam = 20% of Overall Semester Grade

### Grading Scale

- 100 – 90 A
- 89 – 80 B
- 79 – 70 C
- 69 – 60 D
- 59 – 0 F

### Expectations

This course should be used to exchange ideas, and this classroom should be used as the forum for that exchange. Ask questions, but be willing to hear the answers. Offer opinions, but be willing to support them with evidence. Be alert, enthusiastic, critical, and confident, but always remain considerate and receptive in your language. Keep your ears *and* mind open. Afford others the same measure of respect you would like in return.

### General Policies

- Check the class website weekly and when absent—it contains 90% of the necessary course and assignment information
- Lost or misplaced assignments should be printed from the website
- Quizzes and exams will be made up **only** after school or during a study period
- Arrive on time and prepared (**do not** expect hall passes)
- Read assignments prior to class, participate in discussion, and take notes
- Follow instructions and formatting guidelines on all assignments (plagiarism of any sort will result in a **zero**)
- It is the student's responsibility to meet all deadlines and complete all missed (late work may be given a **zero**)
  - Further policies for absences, tardies, and make-up work can be found in the Student Handbook (5.05–5.09)
- Field trips, suspensions, and prearranged absences **are not** excuses for late work
  - Work must be turned in **immediately** upon your return or **before** your absence (subject to teacher's discretion)
- When all else fails: **use your common sense**

## Tentative Schedule Semester I: *English I*

Week 1*	<b>Course Introduction</b>	Syllabus, Letter Home, and Entrance Exam
Week 2	<b>Grammar:</b> Lessons 1-6	Nouns, Pronouns, Verbs, Adjectives, and Adverbs
Week 3		Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Interjections
Week 4*		Subjects, Predicates, and Agreement
Week 5		<b>Writing:</b> Form and Style
		Sentences and Paragraphs Snapshots and Thoughtshots Exploding a Moment and Shrinking a Century The Sea of Experience and The Mountain of Perception
Week 6		Essay 1: <i>Moment in Time</i>
Week 7	<b>Reading:</b> Tools, Techniques, and Terms	Annotated Bookmarks, Indexed Notes, and Lit Terms
Week 8*	<b>Fiction:</b> The Short Story	<b>Realism vs. Magical Realism</b> “Rules of the Game” “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings”
Week 9*		<b>Mystery</b> “The Red-Headed League”
Week 10*		<b>Horror vs. Science Fiction</b> “The Cask of the Amontillado” “There Will Come Soft Rains”
Week 11		<b>Irony vs. Satire</b> “The Gift of the Magi” “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty”
Week 12	<b>Grammar:</b> Lessons 7-11	Verb Usage and Verb Tense
Week 13		Pronoun Usage, Pronoun Problems, and Phrases
Week 14*	<b>Writing Workshop</b>	Essay 2: <i>Object of My Affection</i>
Week 15*	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
Week 16	<b>Fiction:</b> The Novel	<i>The Pearl</i>
Week 17		<i>The Pearl</i>
Week 18		<i>The Pearl</i>
Week 19	<b>Semester Exams</b>	

\* denotes shortened academic week

## Tentative Schedule Semester II: *English I*

Week 1*	<b>Research:</b> Requirements	Topics and Guidelines
Week 2	<b>Research:</b> Orientation	Where Do I Look? What Do I Look For? What Do I Do With It?
Week 3	<b>Research:</b> Information & Support	Five Sources
Week 4*	<b>Research:</b> Argument	Thesis and Outline
Week 5	<b>Research:</b> Structure	Fifty Note Cards and Formal Outline
Week 6	<b>Research:</b> Writing	Rough Draft
Week 7*	<b>Research:</b> Revision and Publication	Final Paper
Week 8*	<b>Poetry:</b> Techniques	Tone, Symbol, Imagery, Rhyme
Week 9	<b>Poetry:</b> Genres	Haiku, Sonnet, Lyrical, Narrative
Week 10*	<b>Poetry:</b> The Epic	from <i>The Odyssey</i>
Week 11		from <i>The Odyssey</i>
Week 12		Film: <i>O Brother, Where Art Thou?</i>
<b>Spring Break</b>		
Week 13	<b>Drama</b>	<i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>
Week 14		<i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>
Week 15		Film: <i>Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>
Week 16*	<b>State Testing</b>	
Week 17	<b>Writing Workshop</b>	Essay 3: <i>List of Nothing in Particular</i>
Week 18	<b>Course Review</b>	
Week 19*	<b>Final Exams</b>	

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