

English I Syllabus

Ms. Mullins

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Room 106

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 2:45-3:15

Course Description

English I offers incoming freshmen an introduction to various genres of literature such as short stories, poetry, plays, and novels. In addition to reading challenging works, students will also learn how to approach and execute the traditional five-paragraph essay.

Academic Content Standards:

The primary goal of the English department is to help students communicate effectively in both written and spoken English. Upon graduation from Immaculate Heart High School students will:

- Read critically and recognize literal and implied meaning in varied classic and contemporary texts, assigned and independently selected.
- Write coherent and focused essays that convey a well-defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument. The writing demonstrates students' awareness of audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.
- Write clearly and use formal conventions of the English language: grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, word choice, paragraphing, and figurative language.
- Speak effectively and employ formal and informal conventions of the English language that are appropriate to a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Respectfully discuss topics, evaluate alternative points of view, and recognize questions and issues raised in the works they read.
- Recognize trends and developments in literature as an art form, including literary movements, styles, and conventions.
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize information for specific purposes, using a variety of properly cited sources.
- Apply knowledge of word origins to determine the meaning of new words encountered in reading materials and use those words accurately.

Benchmarks and Performance Standards:

Students who have successfully completed English I will be able to:

1. Demonstrate reading comprehension through writing, class discussion, oral presentation, and creative projects (Content Standards 1, 4, 5, 7).
2. Write expository paragraphs with appropriate concrete details and analysis by the end of the first semester (Content Standards 2, 3).
3. Write expository essays that include three body paragraphs, an introduction, and a conclusion by the end of freshman year (Content Standards 2, 3).
4. Make use of prewriting, drafting, evaluating, revising, editing, and publishing to develop and express written ideas (Content Standards 2, 3).
5. Integrate quotations that support each body paragraph's main idea with evidence and appropriate analysis (Content Standards 2, 3).
6. Demonstrate familiarity with the basic literary terms that apply to poetry, drama, the short story, and the novel (Content Standard 6).
7. Determine meaning of new or unknown words using context clues and Latin & Greek roots (Content Standard 8).

Required Materials:

Freshmen Course Reader

Bronte, Charlotte, *Jane Eyre*, Signet Classic, NY, 1997.

Gibson, Rex (editor), *Romeo and Juliet*, Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Hurston, Zora Neale, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Perennial Classics, NY, 1998.

Blue or black pens and a red pen

IHHS assignment book

Classroom Expectations:

- **Participation:** Your participation during class will be assessed on a daily basis. (Please see the “Rubric for Class Discussion” in the *Student Writing Handbook*.) It is important that you keep up with the assigned readings and take detailed notes so that you can actively contribute to the discussion of the literary work we are studying. Daily attendance is also crucial to your participation grade.
- **Make-Up Work:** Always check the website for homework if you are absent. It is your responsibility to turn in an assignment the day you return if you were absent the day it was due. In case of an extended absence, you should meet with me to discuss missed assignments. If you know in advance that you will be absent, you must talk to me beforehand and arrange to make up the missed assignment(s). *No make up work will be accepted for an unexcused absence.*

- **Test Return Policy:** English teachers keep summer reading tests, vocabulary tests, and objective final exams so that assessment questions are field tested and can be revised when necessary. This practice allows the department to reuse most parts of an exam for comparison of achievement from year to year and to adjust the emphasis of instruction when required. Students may access their past tests by making arrangements with their teacher.
- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism is the *intentional or unintentional* use of someone else's WORDS or IDEAS without giving proper credit. This includes paraphrasing a source without giving due credit. See the Student Writing Handbook, 3rd Edition for an exhaustive discussion of this matter. As you know, plagiarism is a serious breach of academic integrity and any assignment containing plagiarism earns a zero.
- **Honor Code:** At all times, students are expected to adhere to and respect the school's Honor Code. On all your work, your name affirms your honor.
- **Other classroom rules:**

Generally, students may not leave the classroom unless they have an appointment to see an administrator, a counselor, or permission from me. Each student will be given three locker/restroom passes that she can use at her discretion. A student will also be allowed to turn in an assignment one day late if she presents one of her passes. Passes **may not** be used for formal writing assignments, projects, or presentations.

Students who are having difficulty with the material are strongly encouraged to meet with me outside of class. I am available after school Tuesdays and by appointment.

If a student becomes ill before or during class and needs to go to the sick room, she must get a note from me. If you spend the class period in the sick room, it will count as an absence.

All classroom rules and regulations regarding conduct, attendance, dress code, grading, plagiarism, etc. shall be implemented and followed as stated in the school handbook.

Types of Assignments:

- **Writing:** There will be a variety of writing assignments such as short paragraphs, a personal narrative, creative writing and the five-paragraph essay. All writing assignments must be typewritten and all rough drafts must be turned in with the final copy in order to receive credit. Formal paragraphs/essays must be submitted to turnitin.com in order to receive credit for the assignment.
- **Projects:** Individual and group projects will be assigned throughout the school year. Some of these projects include journals, oral presentations, and a creative project.

Grading Policy:

A 95-100	A- 90-94	B+ 87-89	B 84-86	B- 80-83	C+ 77-79	C 74-76
C- 70-73	D+ 67-69	D 64-66	D- 60-63	F 0-59		

Grades will be computed on a point system with, for example, paragraphs worth 40; essays, 100; tests, 50-100; quizzes, between 5-25; projects, between 50-75; and homework, between 5-20. The final exam will be worth 20-25% of your grade. Your quarter grade may be raised ½ a grade for excellent and active participation, or it may be lowered ½ a grade for deficiency. The semester grade will be computed by finding the percentage of points earned out of the total.

Course Chronology:

First Quarter	Second Quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Summer Reading (The Bean Trees)• Introduction to the <i>Student Writing Handbook</i>• Introduction to the five-paragraph essay and related writing exercises• Short Story Unit (Selections from the <i>Course Reader</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poetry Unit (Selections from the <i>Course Reader</i>)• Shakespeare, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selections from the <i>Course Reader</i>• Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selections from the <i>Course Reader</i>• Hurston, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>