Course Description

Welcome to English II! Our focus this school year will be learning and developing our skills as critical and reflective thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. The development and mastery of these important literacy skills is not only important to achieving success in the English classroom, but also a critical component of achieving success in other school subjects, building strong relationships with others, understanding the world around us, and attaining a flourishing career as an adult. Basically, the quality of life you experience now throughout adulthood will depend on how well you read, write, and communicate with others.

Curriculum Focus of Study

Quarter 1: Forces of change: How do changes, large and small, affect us? Anchor text: novel study: Dawn by Elie Wiesel
Quarter 2: Hard-won Liberty: How can we escape what oppresses us? Anchor text: “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr
Quarter 3: Reckless ambition: When is ambition dangerous? Anchor text: Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Quarter 4: Conflict and connection: How can conflict lead to change? Anchor texts: student choice of novel: Lord of the Flies by William Golding, The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, or The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

English II is designed to prepare students for a level of reading and writing which will prepare students for the rigors of college and career readiness. As such, we sometimes will encounter literary and nonfiction texts centered on sophisticated themes and topics. It is my hope and expectation that students will engage with all class reading assignments in a mature and academic manner; however, students may request alternate titles if they are uncomfortable with a specific piece we are studying.
Gradebook

Gradebook is a web-based tool, found on Vportal, provided by Volusia County Schools (www.vcsedu.org) that allows twenty-hour access to students’ grades. Each parent and student is assigned his or her own login and password. Student’s login is his or her 1alpha. The student’s password is their eight-digit birthdate: ddmmyyyy. Parents should regularly access their student’s grade by logging in with their student’s login and password, if needed.

Assessment-based Grades

In accordance with the VCS Secondary Grading Guidelines, each student’s English grade will be based on diagnostic (0%), formative (40%), and summative (60%) assessment grades. Diagnostic assessments are given prior to instruction to provide information on learner readiness; they can also be given during instruction to target areas of need for intervention. Formative assessments are essential practice opportunities and an assessment for learning. Summative assessments are a measurement of learning and determine whether a standard(s) (non-negotiable academic goal) has been met.

Even though summative assessments are often written assessments and not traditional “tests,” they are still authentic assessments. The expectation is that all summative assessments will be written in the classroom, under teacher supervision. This is done to ensure that the summative assessments are original to each student and allows the teacher to assess each student, at every stage of the writing process, from planning through publication (final draft).

### Grade Scale

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

### Remediation of Summative Assessments

Students do have the opportunity to remediate, or revise, summative assessments within a given time frame; thus, this reinforces the writing process. Students will earn the higher of the two grades recorded in Gradebook. When the summative is returned and students know their grade earned, students need to let Mrs. Dempsey know they want to remediate the summative assessment, within the remediation timeline, and make plans to attend tutoring hours either during lunch or after school.

### Absences and Late Work

When a student is absent, it is the student’s responsibility to collect any assigned homework that was due during the absence. Students can check the class “ABSENT WORK” binder in class and Canvas for missing assignments, notes, and/or handouts. All classwork, including missing work, is available in Canvas through VPortal. Students and parents will know that an assignment is missing by an “M” assigned to an assignment in Gradebook.

**Late Work Policy.** According to the Volusia County Schools Secondary Grading Guidelines, students who are submitting late work (due to absence) should have one day, or one day for each day absence (whichever is greater), to submit.

### Homework

Homework could be any classwork that was started in class that may not have been completed by the end of the class period. Homework is a formative grade and will reinforce the content, skills, and standards taught in the classroom.

**Tutoring:** Available during lunch (Tuesday – Thursday) or after school by appointment.
Course Description

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