English I Course Syllabus

Mrs. Shupe

2015-2016

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English I is a course that reinforces and builds upon essential skills in grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, public speaking, and writing through class discussions, journals and essays, the use of words found in literature, individual book reports, and creative group projects. We will use the Close Reading strategy to help with comprehension. Close Reading involves multiple readings of the same text. The first reading will be an independent reading of the text. The second reading will involve an analysis of key ideas and details as well as the craft and structure of the text. The third reading will focus on connecting knowledge from the text to other texts and the world.

These skills will be used in conjunction with various literature units such as a short story unit, the Epic Poem “The Odyssey”, “ the play “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet”, informational nonfiction texts, and the novel “Animal Farm”. The grammar units will include parts of speech, parts of a sentence, phrases, clauses, and punctuation. Grammar activities will be imbedded in the literature lessons and applied in the written responses to the literature.

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**:

**Be Responsible**

1.  Be on time, prepared, and ready to learn. This means you have your materials (pen, binder, textbook/novel) with you. If you must go back to your locker for supplies and are not back by the bell, you will be marked tardy.

**Be Respectful**

2. Be polite and courteous to classmates and the teacher. You may express your opinions, but

opinions must be expressed appropriately and fully explained. Classmates also have the right

to express their opinions.

**Be Positive**

3. Listen and be open-minded.

**Homework:**

Students will be assigned homework on most days. It is expected to be completed by the **beginning** of the period it is due. Homework will involve reading assigned pages and being ready to participate in class discussions and activities. Quizzes will be given on assigned reading prior to class discussions. Students are responsible for turning in their **own** assignments. Students are expected to check Power School and the website to keep updated on any possible missing assignments. Any homework turned in after the original due date must be handed **directly** to me. Points will be deducted from late work.

Needless to say, I expect homework to be completed **neatly**. If I cannot read your work or if it’s messy, your work will be returned to you to complete correctly. Homework due dates will be extended for excused absences by one day for each day missed. However, **IT IS *YOUR* RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE CAUGHT UP ON YOUR WORK.**

**Writing Assignments and Work:**

Paragraphs are to be a **minimum** of 5-7 sentences unless instructed otherwise.

Writing is a process, and exceptional writing requires revision. Therefore on major papers, I will require that I see rough copies before the final draft is due. **A grade will be assigned to the rough draft.**

Plagiarism or the intentional/unintentional use of someone’s work and claiming it as your own will not be tolerated. Work that is plagiarized will be dealt with according to the policies of the handbook.

**Portfolios:**

All students will keep a portfolio of assignments for the year. You will keep a binder that is for **this class ONLY**. This portfolio is to contain **all** of your homework, notes and your journal assignments. You will be able to use these notes and quizzes to study for tests. The binder should be kept neat, orderly and in good condition.

**Tests/quizzes:**

Tests/quizzes will be announced ahead of time. During testing, NO students are to be talking regardless of whether they are finished or not. Students may talk only when I announce that ALL students have completed the test. If a student is caught talking before my announcement, the test will be given a zero, and the student will be given a detention.

**My desk and storage closet**

Please do not go behind my desk or in my storage closet for any reason. Likewise, destruction to any property belonging to me or the school will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the school handbook.

**Miscellaneous:**

¨ All handbook rules apply, notably, those concerning appropriate dress, cell phones, and that there are to be **no** purses or backpacks in the classroom.

¨  NO writing on the desks.

¨ Students are expected to work diligently until Mrs. Shupe signals dismissal of the class.

¨ Borrowing from English Department classroom libraries:

When borrowing a book, it is to be returned in good condition. If a book is lost, it must be replaced—either a new copy purchased by the student or the payment of $10.00 for a paperback or $15.00 for hardbacks.

¨ No pearl or fluorescent pens on homework assignments.

¨ I DO NOT give extra credit assignments unless all assignments are completed and turned in.

¨ No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom.

¨ When using a computer, you must be seated at a desk. You must use the computer assigned to you. Report any damage to your computer immediately. Failure to do so may result in you being responsible for the repair of the damage.

 ¨ Mrs. Shari Shupe, English I

¨ 217-357-2136, ext. 1513 or shupe.shari@illiniwest.org

Additional Information

This syllabus is subject to change at the teacher’s discretion and for the betterment of the students in my classroom. Any additions or changes will be discussed with the students before being implemented.

I have read and reviewed the English I syllabus with Mrs. Shupe:

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My child and I have reviewed Mrs. Shupe’s class syllabus:

Parent Signature.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please let me know the best way to contact you by filling out the information below.

Phone number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents, please keep track of your child’s grades on Power School. If you do not know your username and /or password, contact the school and they will provide you with that information. I will do my best to alert you if your child is failing or is close to failing. I also try to make your child aware of his/her grades and offer to stay after school so he/she can make up work or get extra help.

Please return this page, signed, by the next class meeting for credit.