

Course Description

English I emphasizes the study of vocabulary and grammar as well as descriptive, narrative, and expository paragraph writing. The course includes an overview of literature and independent reading requirements, as well as the encouragement of reading as a leisure activity. The class seeks to strengthen students' skills in reading comprehension and essay writing along with expanding their ever-growing vocabulary.

Message to students

Gentlemen, I would like to welcome you to Damien. Hopefully, your experience will be a great one. We will spend a fair amount of time on each subject, but if you find yourself falling behind or not understanding a concept, please do not hesitate to ask me for extra help that is why I am here.

Texts

Prentice Hall Literature: Common Core Edition, Grade Nine.

Miriam-Webster's Vocabulary Builder: Second Edition. Mary Wood Cornog

Warriner's Handbook. Fourth Course. John Warriner.

Materials

Every day pens, paper, and the correct books will be needed in class. Students will also need a composition book which will be written in almost daily. Students will have a journal prompt at the beginning of class; they will be expected to write a coherent four sentence minimum paragraph responding to the prompt. Students will need a three-ring binder in which they are to keep all returned homework, tests, quizzes, and homework that has not been collected for the quarter. This will be graded once a semester.

Students will also be allowed to utilize tablet size devices, smart phones, and laptops **only** during approved times during class. They may download class novels **only** onto tablet sized devices. They will **not** be allowed to download novels to phones. They may also purchase a physical copy of the novel or check a copy out from a local library.

Online Reference

I will be posting all upcoming homework assignments and classwork assignments on my teacher page (Edlio), which students and parents can access through the Damien website. Furthermore, I will be posting all journal prompts on the Moodle program, which can be accessed through my teacher page on Edlio. The students will be shown how to access both of these during class and parents will be shown on Back to School Night.

Behavior expectations

There are four main rules in my classroom:

One: respect you teacher. I do not tolerate disrespect in any way!

Two: Respect your classmates. No one needs to be put down for any reason.

Three: Respect yourself.

Four: Respect my classroom. I have spent a great many hours reorganizing my classroom and cleaning it. Please keep in clean and do not dirty it in any way.

Here is a more specific list of the classroom rules:

Classroom Rules

- 1.) There is no eating or drinking (outside of water) within the classroom
- 2.) All language must be classroom appropriate (just because you heard it on TV or in a song doesn't make it appropriate to say in class)
- 3.) There is no throwing of anything across the classroom
- 4.) Stay in your seat unless you ask for permission to leave it
- 5.) Do not interrupt the teacher
- 6.) If another teacher enters the room, you stand
- 7.) Electronic devices may not be used without my express permission

Late Homework Policy

Late Homework will be accepted until the day of a scheduled unit exam and be awarded ½ credit. Any other work will not be accepted after the unit exam except in certain cases of absences.

Contacting me

The best way to get a hold of me is by my email address: Sims@damien-hs.edu. If you email me you should have a reply within twenty-four hours.

Grading breakdown

Grades will be broken down into the following categories:

Homework: Homework will consist of assignments given that are to be completed at home.

Homework will be worth **15%** of the total grade.

Classwork: Classwork consists of work that is begun and completed within the classroom, such as journaling, selected grammar assignments, notebooks, and effort and participation. Classwork consists of **10%** of the grade.

Test/Quizzes: Test and quizzes consist of unit tests, vocabulary quizzes, and quizzes on stories or poems. This section is worth **35%** of the total grade.

Writings consist of expository, reflective, descriptive, and research writing assignments. Writings consist of **20%** of the total grade.

Semester Final: The Semester final will cover all of the material that we have gone over during the semester. It will consist of multiple choice questions, short essay and essay questions. The semester final will be worth **20%** of the total semester grade.

1st Semester

Unit #1- Literary and Poetry terminology

This unit deals with learning the terminology that we will be using to discuss novels, poetry and short stories.

Unit #2- Parts of Speech (Grammar)

In this unit, we will cover the 8 parts of speech. By the conclusion of the unit students will know the definitions of all eight parts of speech, and be able to identify them within the context of a sentence.

Unit #3- Innocence and Experience (Thematic)

When we are young we look at the world with a childlike innocence, we are mostly shielded from the horrors that the world has to offer. As we grow older we go through a change. We lose that childlike innocence, and begin to see the world through experienced eyes. This unit will focus on essays, short stories and poetry dealing with that change.

Unit #4- Writing- Sentence structure/ Descriptive Paragraph Writing (Essay)

This unit will focus on Sentence structure, paying specific attention to verb use and parallelism.

Unit #5- Subjects and Verbs (Grammar)

This unit will focus on the understanding of subjects and verbs and their functions within the sentence

Unit #6- War and Violence (Thematic)

In this unit, we will study the violent nature of man, and how this can ultimately leads to war. From there we will look at how literature has responded to the subject of war over the years.

Novel: *Lord of the Flies*

Unit #7- Direct and Indirect Objects/ Predicate Adjectives and Predicate Nominatives (Grammar)

In this unit we will be discussing transitive action verb and linking verbs. From there we will be learning about direct and indirect objects and predicate adjectives and predicate nominative.

Unit #8- Expository Paragraph Writing/ Narrative Paragraph Writing (Essay)

In this unit we will explore the writing of an expository paragraph and using narrative paragraphs to tell a story.

Unit #9- Technology and the Future

Literature reflects society and technology has had a huge effect on society. In this unit, we will explore how literature responds to technology's effect on society, especially paying attention to how that technology may affect the future.

Novel: *Ender's Game*