
MEHLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

English I - Course Syllabus

Mr. Maxfield

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Daily assignments and handouts from class can be found at
<http://maxfield.synthasite.com>

Course Description:

This required introductory course includes the study of various types of literature. Composition will include the development of the paragraph and the essay using correct grammar and correct grammatical constructions in conjunction with writing.

Course Schedule:

Semester 1:

- Short Stories – Fiction
- Grammar
- Journals
- Portfolio/Writer's Notebook
- Vocabulary
- Presentations/Projects
- Essays: Personal Narrative, Compare/Contrast, Literary Analysis
- Novels: To Kill a Mockingbird (The Secret Life of Bees may also be used.)
- Independent Reading Project*

Semester 2:

- Research Essay (completion is required to pass Semester 2)
- Shakespeare (*Romeo and Juliet*)
- Short Stories – Nonfiction
- Journals
- Portfolio/Writer's Notebook
- Vocabulary
- Presentations/Projects
- Poetry
- Independent Reading Project*

**Scholastic Reading Counts* program will be used to administer reading comprehension tests. In addition, a *Scholastic Reading Inventory* will be taken on each student to evaluate lexile reading level and reading progress each semester.

Grading Scale

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

Evaluation:

Tests – A variety of testing formats will be used including but not limited to: multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, matching, short answer, and essay questions.

Quizzes/Reading Checks – This assessment allows the student to demonstrate understanding of assigned reading and class instruction/discussion.

Essays – Essays are designed to improve writing skills and to test understanding of material which involves a critical analysis of assigned readings. Writing will be graded according to content and mechanics.

Portfolio/Writer's Notebook – The purpose of the portfolio and/or writer's notebook is to have a collection of student writings from which students may choose to revise and refine.

Daily Assignments/Homework – Individual and group assignments will be given to students to check for understanding.

Projects/Presentations – These items are designed to allow students to use creative applications to present knowledge of material.

*Other formats such as Web Quests & Socratic Seminars may be utilized by the instructor at his/her discretion.

The Power of I

All major assignments (projects and papers) will be considered Power of I assignments. In addition to receiving a zero in the grade book for missing these assignments, a student will receive an "I" for incomplete. Additionally, any assignment scoring below a 70% (C) will also receive an "I."

Those "I's" will remain in the grade book until the student completes the work at a grade level of 70% or above, thus demonstrating that the assessed academic standard has been met. No grade below a "C" will be acceptable.

A student who does not meet academic standards will:

- be asked why he/she did not do the work assigned;
- be assigned a prescriptive travel pass for TAP or after school tutoring;
- be required to attend extra help sessions - first during TAP and then before or after school;
- be assigned a detention if extra help sessions are skipped and assignment still has not been completed;
- revise work or retake tests until standards are met;
- not receive a grade of "A" if the assignment is not turned in on time;
- never receive an "F" on acceptable completion of assignment.

* Certain assignments will not be *POI* and thus will be ineligible for make-up or late credit. Examples include (but are not limited to) in-class assignments, worksheets, and short answer questions.