
MEHLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

English I - Course Syllabus

Mr. Maxfield

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 I < 70

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.

Class Participation – Participation includes criteria such as promptness to class, preparedness for class, attentiveness, discussion, effort, etc.

*Other formats such as Web quests and Socratic seminars may be utilized by the instructor at his/her discretion.

Department Policies:

For this class, the *Power of I* policy is in effect. See attached explanation letter for details.

The student is responsible for obtaining make-up work after an absence. The student will be allowed one day for every day they are absent to complete the work. Students who have six or more absences will not receive credit for the course unless granted by an appeal committee.

Students who fail to turn in a research essay during Semester 2 will not pass English I for that semester.

Modifications to the curriculum and syllabus will be made according to student needs.

Contact Information:

Email: **maxfieldw@mehlville.k12.mo.us** Voicemail: **314.467.6238**

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