

St. Pius X High School
English Department
English I
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COURSE OVERVIEW

This class will be challenging. Students will be exposed to different genres, time periods, and cultures during our time together. Students will be expected to develop and constantly improve sophisticated writing skills through the study of vocabulary, grammar, MLA formatting, and daily journal writing. This class will be largely discussion based, which requires a level of maturity and respect. In addition, students will become well versed in the areas of research, test taking, study skills, and organizational methods through guided practice. This course focuses on all areas of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Reading: We will be reading selections from *Elements of Literature*, *The Odyssey*, three novels, and one play throughout our two semesters. In addition to the required reading, students will be expected to read one novel of their choosing outside of class. Reading comprehension and analysis will be emphasized and developed through skill development in summarizing, questioning, clarifying, and predicting.

Writing: Students will be journaling daily, expected to complete several formal essays a semester, show continuous improvement through regular writing exercises, and finally demonstrate critical thinking skills by applying what they've learned to a research project.

Listening: As mentioned earlier, this class will be largely discussion based. In addition to completing the assigned reading/work, this requires students to be respectful and participate through active listening. This includes taking notes, asking questions, and always being prepared.

Speaking: This class will provide many opportunities for students to practice their professional speaking skills. In-class discussions, formal and informal presentations, and group debates are a few of the different speaking platforms we will be exploring this year.

Other Skills: Note taking, time management, study strategies, and organization are interdisciplinary skills that will determine long-term success. We will be trying several different styles of each, finding the particular strategies that work on an individual level, and maintaining them throughout the year. Each student has a unique learning style, and it is best to discover what works best earlier on in their academic career. Students are expected to adhere to MLA format and citation rules for all assignments, so the class will spend time throughout the year mastering this subject.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS

Holt's *Elements of Literature*, Third Course.
Animal Farm
The Odyssey
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet

Of Mice and Men
Romeo and Juliet

Demonstrate professionalism in written assignments. All work assigned for completion outside of class needs to be word processed (typed). Please use a standard, 12-point font for written assignments, one-inch margins, and comply with MLA guidelines on headers and citations. It is always a good idea to keep a copy of written work submitted. Please proofread carefully. Assignments will be turned in at the beginning of class in the proper inbox. I will not search for individual student work in multiple places. All assignments will be submitted on time or students will incur grade deductions.

Adhere to academic honesty policies. This classroom has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to cheating. Cheating comes down to blatant disrespect. It disrespects the instructor by suggesting the assignment is not worth your time or effort, disrespects your classmates by suggesting you are somehow above them and do not have to complete the same work, and finally it disrespects you. Cheating insults your own intelligence by suggesting you are somehow incapable of the work. Every student that enters this classroom is capable of every assignment. Any instance of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams or plagiarism) will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment or exam, second offenses will result in a semester grade of "F", and third offenses will result in a semester grade of "F" as well as an immediate Disciplinary Board meeting with the possibility of expulsion. For more information on academic honesty, please consult the St. Pius X catalog.

GRADING

The St. Pius X grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92%	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	59 & Below	F

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Three ring binder, with dividers
- One subject notebook, preferably college ruled
- One composition notebook
- 100 4x6 lined notecards
- 150 sheets of college ruled, loose leaf paper
- Two pens, black or blue ink
- Box of tissues

As a side note: You will be doing a healthy amount of proofreading, editing, researching, analyzing, synthesizing, and writing in this class. I would advise that, in addition to two pens, you carry with you: three different colored highlighters, extra pens, and/or pencils if you are so inclined.

EXPECTATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Take responsibility for your own learning. Promptness and coming to class prepared are imperatives. All students are expected to be seated when the bell rings. You and your classmates will benefit from active engagement in activities and assignments and your willingness to connect what we're doing with other courses and your own experiences as a learner. I expect you to devote your undivided attention to class activities. Cell phones are not allowed to be out or powered on in the classroom. Ultimately, your willingness to grow as a student will serve you well, both in this course and in your future classes.

Attend class regularly. Please see the St. Pius X handbook for attendance policies. Each student will be expected to adhere to the school policy and will be held accountable. Getting notes from a friend or obtaining the handouts for a given class cannot substitute for your actual presence in class. Many of the activities completed in class cannot be recreated. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining notes, handouts, and assignments from the proper absent folder.

Come to class prepared. This cannot be stressed enough. Please read assigned readings before coming to class and be willing to question and critique the ideas raised. Careful and critical analysis of the readings will benefit your in-class activity scores as well as your performance on other assignments, activities and exams.

Turn in assignments on time. I will provide detailed instructions/expectations for assignments in advance. I encourage you to ask questions and seek clarification about requirements and expectations. Assignments are due on the due date, period. Your overall grade will be reduced by one letter grade each day past the due date that you submit the assignment. No assignments will be accepted five days after the due date.

Get engaged during class sessions. Discussions are an essential part of learning, particularly as we consider various genres, cultures, and perspectives. We will be discussing a wide range of important ideas and issues throughout the course. Of course, no one's views—not mine, not your classmates, nor any of the authors we will read—are absolute or infallible. We will spend a lot of time honing the ability to critically discuss issues with others, reserve judgment, consider alternatives, and form opinions/arguments based on a thorough investigation of each topic.

Please note: Each student receives a grade for class participation. Any of the following behaviors will result in a severe point deduction—falling asleep in class, refusal to participate, failing to stay alert and engage in active listening, or consistent failure to bring necessary materials.