

**Incline High School
Course Expectations
2020-2021**

English 1-2

Mr. Neal Young
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www.stayclassyincline.com

Course Description

This one-year course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Nevada Academic Content Standards (Common Core State Standards) as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designed to build on knowledge and skills acquired in earlier grades but in more sophisticated ways such as mastering the language, grammar, structure, and rhetoric of text; completing more complex writing assignments; reading and analyzing a range of literary and informational discourse, both classic and contemporary; delivering more extensive oral presentations; and participating in a variety of conversations and collaborations with peers. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology and digital media are integral parts of this course. This course fulfills one of the English credits required for high school graduation.

Course Goals

- To introduce students to a variety of authors, cultures, times, and literary forms
- To employ the writing process for the development of literary analysis, narrative composition, informative essay, and poetry writing
- To expand vocabulary, knowledge of grammar, and critical thinking skills
- To instill a love of literature and encourage students to become lifelong readers.
- To prepare students for the rigors of future English classes

New for 2020-2021!

- Whatever happens this year, you will earn grades traditionally. We are starting the same way we always have started: your work and effort will determine your grade. If we must switch to a distance learning model, the same applies. Do not start this school year with the same mindset with which you ended the last one. In other words, your work, attendance, and effort count, and **you will succeed or fail (with an actual F on your transcript) accordingly.**
- We are going almost entirely paperless. **You will need your laptop every single day and you will need to keep your digital files organized in OneDrive.** You will not be able to complete course work unless you have it, and unless the circumstances are extraordinary, your grade will suffer without a laptop.
- Reminder: we are on an A/B schedule with alternating in-person days. Attendance on your remote days will be taken with assignments turned in by 2:15pm.

Textbook(s)

The Elements of Literature will be the primary literary text for this course. If lost the student will be responsible for an \$80 replacement fee.

Reading List

What literature offers to all people, young and old alike, is an imaginative understanding of human nature, that is, of the possibilities of human character and experience. If read carefully and reflectively, **quality literature can enlarge our understanding of human nature** and help us become better judges of character. Fostering this enlargement is the goal of the 9th grade literature program. Nothing shapes our character more than the conflicts and crises we inevitably face throughout life, and nothing can enlarge and enrich our understanding of this fact more than literature.

Aside from poems and short stories, we will be covering the following novels and plays (list subject to change):

Lord of the Flies by William Goldman
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

***Due to the level of this course, much of the literature we study will cover mature themes, and do – in some cases – contain profanity. I will attempt to teach around questionable material, if possible, but I will not provide edited texts. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at neal.young@washoeschools.net. In the event a parent/guardian does not wish for their student to participate in the exploration of that topic, an alternate work will be assigned, an alternate work will be assigned. The student will NOT lose points.

Materials

Please have all supplies available by the end of the first week of school.

- A folder or binder in which to keep any handouts or packets. These will be limited, but essential.
- Plan to take advantage of the Incline High School laptop program and OneDrive system. Any concerns about online class resources or access or should be discussed with the teacher and/or directed to the administration.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be determined on the following scale:

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	below 60%

Grading Procedures

1. My website (www.stayclassyinline.com) is the best way to track our daily work - check it every day, especially when you are absent.
2. Students who are tardy will miss opening of class graded activities.
3. **Late Work: formal essays turned in late will lose work ethic points. All other assignments will be docked 50% if late. I will not accept late work turned in after the grading period (progress report or end of quarter dates - and no late work will be accepted during the last week of the grading period).**
4. Homework is vital to the process of learning and – although I will try to give ample time for most assignments in class – it is a necessary evil and will be expected on a regular basis. No excuses (other than family emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances deemed fit by the teacher).
5. Spelling, grammar, and neatness are of the utmost importance. I will return assignments that are not completed or kept in a professional manner and in line with my expectations. Students will be required to return said assignment in a professional manner in order to receive full points.
6. Attendance is vital in my class. Students who miss considerable time will struggle if they fall behind.
7. Participation is expected from all students as this class will revolve around discussions. Failure to participate will hurt the student's grade.
8. Extra credit may be given at my discretion intermittently throughout the year. However, the points will be minimal and not impact grades to a large extent (in other words, it will not be used as a substitute for major work or grades).
9. Grades will be updated at a minimum of once a week.

Make-Up Work

After any absence, follow this procedure:

1. Check the class website (www.stayclassyinline.com)
2. Check with another student in the class.
3. If you still have questions, ask Mr. Young.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain appropriate make up work directly following the student's return. Any previously assigned and due assignments before the absence are due next class period. It is suggested that all students maintain a reliable "study-buddy" who will gather missed work and notes for him/her. Remember, taking the initiative to do this make-up work is solely the student's responsibility, *not* the teacher's. If a student is absent on the day of a major essay or exam, the day the student returns, s/he is expected to turn in the work or complete the exam during lunch, a prep period, or after school.

Basis for Grades

Grade weights:

70% Assessments (Essays, tests, quizzes, projects)

20% Formative/Practice work (classwork, homework)

10% Work Ethic

Semester grades will be calculated as follows:

All work prior to exam	85 %
Semester Exam	15 %

Class Rules:

- 1. Academic Integrity-** All students involved in copying, plagiarism, or cheating of any kind will receive a zero on the assignment and referred to administration.
- 2. Disruptions to the learning environment are unacceptable.** Students acting inappropriately will receive the appropriate consequence on the progressive discipline plan. *Any* conduct, which disrupts the education of the class, will be handled quickly and seriously. *Parents will be notified, and may be asked to come in for a conference.*
- 3. Cell phones should be turned off and put away when class begins.** If a cell phone is out or being used by a student without the teacher's permission, it will be immediately confiscated.
- 4. Any inappropriate or non-school related use of laptops will result in the direct confiscation.**
- 5. Other than water, no food or drink is allowed in class, unless provided or approved by the teacher.**

Classroom Discipline:

The administration of detentions is based on the severity or repetition of a behavior that violates school and/or classroom rules. Verbal warnings (up to two) may be given so that the student may modify his or her behavior to fit the classroom expectations. Students may also be given the opportunity to take advantage of a cool-off time period outside of class with the option of being invited back in if the behavior is corrected. Students will still have access to and receive their education during this time. However, if the behavior continues, the student will be given a detention and parent(s) and the office will be notified. This class adheres to the IHS Progressive Discipline Policy.

Citizenship

The education of students is the ultimate objective of this course. Interfering behavior will result in lowered citizenship grades.

Office Hours

I will be available before and after school for make-up work and questions. Generally, my hours will be 7:00 am – 3:00 pm in room 213. Special appointments may be scheduled on an individual basis.

Mr. Young

English 1-2

neal.young@washoeschools.net

TO ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

Students: Please email the teacher within the first quarter to establish a working connection.

Parent/Guardian Email – Please make sure your email is up to date in Infinite Campus. I will send emails to those addresses in your student's file.

Understanding the elements of this syllabus is critical to a student's success in this class. Please indicate that you *and* your student have read and understand the attached information by emailing me the following:

Student Name

Class name

Period

Parent/Guardian

Comments, questions, or concerns

Please email me this information at neal.young@washoeschools.net by the end of the first week of school.
Thanks!