



English I – Grade 9

Course Syllabus 2021-2022

Mr. Bowden

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Course Description

English I builds upon students' reading levels, interests, and learning styles by creating opportunities for students to see models of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read a variety of texts, participate in small and large group discussions, complete a variety of formative and summative assessments and compose original texts in a variety of modes. Overall, this course will help prepare ninth graders for college level reading and writing as well as for future careers.

Goals for Student Learning

The English I curriculum will provide students with the opportunity to do the following:

- Develop habits of mind that promote reading comprehension
- Use strategies to select "just right" texts
- Apply reading strategies to a variety of texts
- Practice critical thinking and analysis skills
- Compose responses to literature and other writing assignments



According to the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards, as students advance through grade levels, they should exhibit the following capacities of literate individuals:

- *They demonstrate independence.*
- *They build strong content knowledge.*
- *They respond to varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.*
- *They comprehend as well as critique.*
- *They value evidence.*
- *They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.*
- *They come to understand and value other perspectives and cultures.*

Suggested Materials

- Lined notebook paper OR notebook
- Plastic two pocket folder with binder holes
- Pencils, pens etc.
- Post-its (regular size or smaller)
- SSR book or other reading material (this will *sometimes* be provided to you).



*You should be using an HCPS laptop or personal computer/tablet to engage with ItsLearning resources. A phone is not recommended primarily because of limited access to items in the ItsLearning app.

Course Outline

English I has four Units:

- Unit 1: Finding Common Ground
- Unit 2: The Struggle for Freedom
- Unit 3: The Bonds Between Us
- Unit 4: A Matter of Life or Death

Classroom Rules and Procedures

Participation

In order to succeed in this class, you must be an active participant. However, participation will take several forms. **Daily participation involves asking questions, responding to ideas, and expressing your opinion.** There will be numerous opportunities which will require your active involvement in class. You may work in pairs, groups, and individually. Your participation is a vital element of your success in this class since it is through participation that I will be able to judge your understanding and progress in this class.

Communicating with Me

HCPS Email – Paul.Bowden@hcps.org

This is the primary way you should contact me, your teacher. **Communicating with your teacher via HCPS email is HCPS policy.** It is the best way to contact me.

ITSLearning Messenger

There is a feature on ITSLearning that allows you to message me. Please allow a minimum of 24 hours for me to respond to ItsLearning messages (48 hours over the weekend).

HCPS Grading Policy

Examples of Product, Process, and Practice		
PRODUCT (50%) <i>Culminating Demonstration of Knowledge</i>	PROCESS (30%) <i>Addressing Specific Short-Term Learning Outcomes</i>	PRACTICE (20%) <i>Building Attitudes, Habits, and Skills</i>
Does it measure how well students achieved specific learning goals, standards, and/or competencies?	Does it provide feedback to students regarding growth towards the attainment of specific learning goals, standards and competencies?	Does it allow students to practice skills and/or reinforce content learning?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primarily completed in presence of teacher• Rubric aligned to standards• Accuracy graded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primarily completed in presence of teacher• Rubric aligned to standards• Accuracy graded	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graded for completion and participation

Examples of Product, Process, and Practice		
PRODUCT (50%) <i>Culminating Demonstration of Knowledge</i>	PROCESS (30%) <i>Addressing Specific Short-Term Learning Outcomes</i>	PRACTICE (20%) <i>Building Attitudes, Habits, and Skills</i>
Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit test/exam/ benchmark • Integrated performance assessment • Portfolio • Timed Write / Essays 	Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short, written responses to text • Socratic Seminar • Research process • Traditional Quiz 	Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework • Notetaking • Discussion boards/collaborative work • Warm Up/Closure

*** Extra credit will not be given for non-academic purposes. ***

Absent Work Policy

All assignments should be submitted on time. Students will be given the number of class periods equal to the number of lawful class periods absent to turn in completed make up assignments without penalty.

Late Work Policy

All assignments should be submitted on time in order to earn full credit. Any assignment, (*product, process, or practice*) will be allowed to be turned in late for one letter grade deduction from the grade a student earns on the assignment. In order to earn credit for late assignments, students must submit assignments by the end of the day on Wednesday (except for the last week of the quarter) following the designated HAC update. Students are only able to submit assignments that have an established due date within the grading window before the designated HAC update. Assignment that are turned in for late credit will be identified by a footnote in HAC to include a statement about the deduction of a letter grade due to the lateness of the assignment.

Grading Window	Designated HAC Update	Late Work Due Date
September 8- September 24	September 24	September 29
September 27- October 13	October 13	October 20
October 14- October 29	October 29	November 5 (Friday)
November 8- November 19	November 19	November 24
November 22- December 10	December 10	December 15
December 13- January 13	January 13	January 21 (Friday)
January 24- February 11	February 11	February 16
February 14- February 25	February 25	March 2
February 28- March 11	March 11	March 16
March 14- March 25	March 25	March 31 (Thursday)
April 1- April 22	April 22	April 27
April 25- May 6	May 6	May 11
May 11- May 20	May 20	May 25

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for the quality and completion of one's own work. Academic dishonesty is taking someone else's work and claiming it as one's own. Students at Bel Air High School are responsible for knowing what is considered to be Academic Dishonesty and the subsequent consequences. **Consequences can include disciplinary referrals, if warranted.** More information can be found in the [BAHS Student Planner, which is available on your ItsLearning Homepage.](#)

Some Academic Dishonesty examples include:

- Copying another student's work.
- Sharing your work with a friend without explicit teacher permission.
- Taking a photo of your work and sharing with a friend.
- Copying work from the internet and **not** including a citation.
- Rewriting ideas from an internet source and **not** including a citation.
- Working with another student on an assignment without explicit teacher permission.
- Reusing a paper or other assignment from another class (yes, you can plagiarize yourself!).

Cell Phone & Electronics Policy

Students should place their electronic devices (including, but not limited to, cell phones, listening devices, smart watches, and iPads), either on silent or off, in a designated area as they begin each class meeting. This is to help YOU focus and grasp the concepts being taught. The devices should remain in the designated areas unless teachers explicitly tell students to use them as a part of classroom instruction.



- Devices should remain in the designated area during bathroom visits.
- School-appropriate cellphone use is permitted during class as designated by the teacher.

Please come to class with an open mind, a kind attitude toward others, and a willingness to work hard. *Trust* that I have your best interests in mind and that I will do everything possible to make sure that you are successful this year. If you ever have suggestions on how we can make improvements to the class, you can always speak to me privately and honestly via email. I hope you have a *fantastic* year.