



# ENGLISH I SYLLABUS

## Contact Information

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## Classroom Overview

Welcome to English I, a class dedicated to improving our communication skills as we discover more about our world and develop our thoughts on life's biggest questions!

## Expectations

Lexington High School's expectations are also my classroom expectations. We follow the rules while under my supervision. We're on the MARCH. We are Mindful, Accountable, Respectful, Compassionate, and Honest.

In my classroom, we treat each other the way we want to be treated. We respect the authority of the teacher, so I can respect the time of the student. We recognize that the amount of fun and freedom we have in our learning environment is dependent on the expectations of the school and the behavior of the students.

There are some specific expectations and routines that we will also establish throughout the year to make class function smoothly. We'll practice those consistently and adapt them as needed.

## Curriculum, Materials, and Learning Goals

Throughout the year, we'll be using various materials to help us with our learning. Students should bring their **iPad, a notebook, a pen/pencil, a good attitude, and whatever other specific materials we're using at the time** (such as a class novel) to class every day.

Our online curriculum is Study Sync; we'll use it frequently as the main source of our learning. We'll also use NoRedInk to practice our grammar.

Though the specific learning goals we seek to achieve will vary throughout the year, students should expect to read through a couple novels and short stories to analyze the plot, themes, and characters. We'll also work on a research paper so that students develop both academic reading and writing skills. We'll regularly develop our vocabulary and grammar skills. Lastly, we'll work briefly in areas such as creative writing and public speaking.

## Grade Distribution

**Overall grades are calculated using a weighted system.**

Each **semester grade** is calculated based on the following percentages:

- Quarter (45%)
- Quarter (45%)
- Semester Final (10%)

Each **quarter grade** is calculated based on the following percentages:

- Homework - 30%
- Quizzes/Formative Assignments - 30%
- Tests/Summative Assessments - 40%

Please know that all grades must be **finalized at the end of each quarter**. This policy overrides any policies regarding **Late Work or Grade Improvements**. Students should keep this in mind when the end of the quarter is approaching.

# Late Work Policy

Assignments are Due on the Due Date. There are consequences when assignments are not turned in on the Due Date, but there is grace within those consequences.

## Credit

Homework is eligible to be turned in late while still receiving some credit. Students receive the following credit based on when their homework is submitted:

- Full Credit - Work is received **by 3:45PM on the assigned Due Date.**
- Half Credit - Work is received **up to 5 school days past the Due Date.**
- No Credit/Incomplete - Work is received **after this 5 day grace period.**

All Quizzes and Tests are **ineligible** for late work credit. Most other assignments/assessments are also ineligible for late work; I will tell students if I have made an exception.

## Extensions

Students may ask for an extension on any eligible assignment. If a student would like an extension, they must **email me** before 3:45PM on the assigned Due Date. The student will then have **1 additional day** to complete the assignment for **Full Credit** (note: This is not a school day extension—if an assignment was Due on Friday, it is now Due on Saturday at 3:45PM)

Once per quarter, a student may ask to have a **5-day extension** on any eligible assignment. During this time, the normal Half Credit penalty will be **forgiven**. However, if a student fails to complete the assignment within these 5 school days, it will be given **No Credit** and marked as incomplete.

On rare occasions, I will give out additional extensions. Teachers make mistakes too, so it'd be hypocritical of me to ask my students to be flawless. Students wanting an additional extension must communicate with me regarding the circumstances that justify their request. I will handle these requests on a case-by-case basis.

### **Absence Extensions**

Students **must** communicate with me if they anticipate being absent (such as participating in a sporting event or going on a family vacation) so that they know what assignments are due during their absence. The **Due Date does not change** just because a student misses a day.

If your absence affects your ability to complete assignment on the Due Date or a student is unexpectedly absent (such as being sick), **let me know**. We can work something out together, but work will still be completed in a timely manner.

## **Grade Improvement Policy**

**The Best Way to improve your grade is to complete your work properly and on time. When you don't do your work right the first time, you have to put in more work to correct it.**

### **Retake Policy**

All Quizzes and Tests are **eligible** for one retake (barring the Semester Final). Most other assignments/assessments are not eligible for a retake; I will tell students if I have made an exception. In order to qualify for a retake, students must have scored **below 70%** on the assessment and will receive **no more than 70%** on a retake.

Students who retake a Quiz or Test must do so within **3 School Days** of the initial grading. If the retake score is **lower** than the original score, the original score will be entered into the gradebook instead.

## Extra Credit Policy

Students may complete **1 extra credit assignment** per quarter. Students are eligible to complete Extra Credit assignments only if they have **no missing assignments or available retakes** and no more than **5 Incomplete Assignments** within that quarter. If a student would like an extra credit assignment, they must tell me their idea and have it approved.

Here are some great examples of work that can be done for extra credit:

- Presenting a **book review or poem** you wrote to the class.
- Attending an English related event such as a **public book reading**.
- Participating in activities such as **One Act or Speech**.

Students are encouraged to present other ideas as options for extra credit as well. I appreciate the creativity!

If a student meets the requirements set when their assignment was approved, they will receive a **10% increase to their Homework grade** at the end of the quarter. This equals roughly a **3% increase** in their grade overall.

## Other Policies

### Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain academic integrity in all of the work that they submit. The LHS handbook outlines specific consequences for cheating; students should know that they will receive **no credit** for work that is not their own and repeat offenses result in suspensions. Students should know that **assisting another student in cheating** is regarded as the same thing as cheating and will result in the same consequences. To be clear on what is and is not cheating, I've outlined a few examples:

**This is Cheating:**

- Submitting your friend's work
- Submitting an older sibling's work
- Submitting your parents' work
- Submitting an article you found online
- Submitting work generated by AI
- Submitting work you've previously submitted (will trigger **turnitin**)

**This is not Cheating:**

- Asking me (your teacher) for help with an assignment
- Asking your friend, sibling, or parent for help with an assignment
- Using a quote from an online article and properly citing it

There are other instances of cheating and not cheating—these are merely examples. If you think it's cheating, it probably is. Most written work will be submitted through **turnitin** as a precaution to maintain academic integrity. Please ask if you're not sure what constitutes cheating.

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Feel free to review this syllabus at any time for clarity and remember to contact me if you have any questions. I leave you with this quote from one of my favorite authors:

“The worst part of holding the memories is not the pain. It's the loneliness of it. *Memories need to be shared.*”

— **Lois Lowry, The Giver**