

Syllabus (Revised 8/9/23)

Mr. Timothy Black

tblack@verdenschools.org

School Phone: 405-453-7247

Cell Phone (for parents only): 405-274-6929

ENGL I--ENGL IV, Creative Writing

Objectives:

Students will learn and develop communication and language arts skills through reading and writing and through verbal and written responses, they will learn research techniques, they will recognize high-frequency words, they will read grade-level text, they will apply critical thinking skills to reading and writing, and they will expand vocabulary to communicate effectively and to understand texts.

Literature:

Students will read, study, analyze, and discuss grade-level appropriate literature. The list of genres includes but is not limited to poems, short stories, novels, plays, essays, articles, speeches, nonfiction, historical documents, autobiographies, and so on.

Parental note: Some literature that we study has mature subject matter; it may have a PG-13 flavor to it. As educators, we do not condone acts of violence, profanity, illegality, racism, and the like, but often the author's purpose is to show the end result of such activity and to show the realness of the work. Material we may cover in English class may include but is not limited to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Odyssey*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*, *Beowulf*, *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, *tuesdays With Morrie*--all classics and all containing mature matter. We may also view the films associated with some of these works.

Rules:

Students will follow school rules per the Verden High School Student Handbook of the current school year and will follow classroom rules. Guidelines for attendance, discipline, makeup work, cell phones, profanity, fighting, disrespect for teachers, and so on will be followed. Cell phones will not be allowed during class.

Procedures:

We will work with several procedures and turning-in methods. Most assignments will be posted on Google Classroom in the event of students being absent. We will have assignments on StudySync, and we will have pencil and paper assignments.

Late Work:

Assignments handed in after the due date and time will receive 75 percent credit for one week, then 50 percent the next week, and then 25 thereafter. No makeup work will be accepted in December or May or after the previous nine weeks grading period.

Books:

Students will receive novels and workbooks. They will be responsible for any lost or damaged books and will pay the just price for such loss or damage. The student will be responsible for that book and for keeping it in his/her locker and not in the classroom, and will be responsible for the general care of the book.

Grading Scale:

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

Grading Weight:

"Daily" assignments will count as one grade. Essays will count as two grades. Regular tests will count three times in the gradebook; nine weeks tests will count four times, and the semester tests will count five times.

Extra Credit/Retests

Extra credit **will not** be given for students who have missing work. Students **will not** be allowed to retake a test unless they are on an IEP which allows them to retest.

Parents'/Guardians' Signature:

I have read the syllabus and have an understanding of what is expected in Mr. Black's English and Creative Writing classes.

Parents/guardians may also text the following to Mr. Black at 405-274-6929:

"I have read the syllabus and have an understanding of what is expected in Mr. Black's English and Creative Writing classes."