

English II Course Information/Syllabus

Ms. Walston

English II/ Reading II/English IV

Contact: rwalston@houstonisd.org **Google Voice:** (409) 241-6446

Office Hours: 2:44-3:35PM M-F

Materials Needed:

1. Spiral or composition notebook
2. Tissue
3. Black or Blue Pens and Pencils
4. LOTS of Loose Leaf Paper, **COLLEGE RULE ONLY**
5. Index Cards
6. Laptops

Please be aware that ALL assignments in this class are turned in electronically. It is imperative that students bring their laptops to EVERY class on a consistent basis or they will risk failing this course. If the student's laptop is lost, or it is stolen, damaged, or not working for any reason, they MUST contact the IT department to fill out the proper paperwork IMMEDIATELY so they can get a replacement laptop ASAP.

Course Description:

This course is designed to prepare students for upper high school requirements by developing a strong foundation upon which they can expand. This foundation consists of introducing and reinforcing writing concepts, reading skills, and grammar. Students generate various composition, as well as read and analyze works from multiple genres. The learning experiences are designed to develop communication skills and provide opportunities for directed and holistic learning. This English Lit. II course is designed to prepare students to score high on their STAAR/EOC English II exam, to begin preparing students for the SAT and/or ACT exams, and to become college ready.

Goals:

- Organizing writing around a thesis
- Evaluating quality text evidence
- Blending text evidence with student writing
- Using effective transitions in writing
- Making interpretations that transcend the literal
- Revising for word choice and sentence structure
- Quality research writing
- Quality persuasive writing

Attendance

Attendance is a NECESSITY! Missing even one day can put a student behind. Students who engage in learning activities via the HUB, participate in a Teams meeting with teachers, or submit assignments via the HUB are considered "present" and will not be marked absent. State law TEC §25.092 and Houston ISD Policy still require students to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus (face-to-face) attendance in satisfying this requirement. Students can engage with their teacher through the following:

- Daily participation in the HUB, the HISD Learning Management System (LMS), completion of independent reading and work assignments, use of assigned digital tools, and/or group interactions.
- Interaction with teacher via Teams as part of live or small group instruction.
- Students assignment submission via the HUB for each scheduled class. When unable to submit via the HUB

students can submit assignments via emails, photos, phone conferences or other forms of documentation.

Students who have not logged in by the following times will be marked absent:

- Elementary schools - 2:30 p.m
- Middle & K-8 schools – 3:30 p.m
- High schools – 3:30 p.m

This absence can be resolved if the student engages in daily learning assigned by their teachers via the HUB by 11:59 p.m. that same day. Parents and students will receive absence notifications via School Messenger after 6:00 p.m each day and will be reminded of the opportunity to resolve that day's absence if the student engages in learning before 11:59 p.m of the same day via the HUB. Any absences recorded, but resolved by the student before 11:59 p.m on the same day, will be reconciled based on login records of the HUB.

If a student is engaged in remote learning and completes the entire week's worth of learning activities on Monday and does not log in for the remainder of the week, he/she will be marked "present" on Monday only and counted "absent" for Tuesday-Friday.

Please encourage your child to be in class every day and to be on time. If a student misses one or more days, it is **HIS/HER** responsibility to find out what they missed during their absence(s) and get that work turned in before the end of that week. Work that isn't made up by the designated due date will receive a grade of 50.

Homework

Homework is given when classwork is not finished during the class period OR when work was missed due to absences. There is an exception during collaborative group projects during the mid-term and finals. During these special projects, students will need to utilize their time outside of class to collaborate with classmates and work on their assigned portion of their projects.

Grading Policy

The student's essay and projects work will be graded using a rubric on a 1-4 score scale. Do Now's, Exit Tickets, and Classwork will be considered completion grades (that means the grades are graded 0-100 points based on full completion and execution of directions). Students enrolled in remote instruction follow the same grading guidelines as in-person instruction. Teachers receive support and guidance on effective grading practices to ensure that grading guidelines are followed in both instructional models.

Courses taken as Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment will be subject to the grading policies of the Institution of Higher Education (IHE) issuing the college credit.

Grades will be taken during each grading cycle of the 2020-2021 school year. All cycle grades will be used in the calculation of the final average for any class. Final exams will be administered for all high school credit courses.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Class work -25%

Projects- 25%

Quizzes- 25%

Tests- 25%

Make-Up and/or Late Work

Most work will be turned in at the end of the class period, however, in cases where work was not completed on time, it will be considered homework and is due by the next class period. If classwork is turned in later than the expected time, it will have points deducted according to the rubric below. Students can turn in late work up to three days late without penalty if it is because of an excused absence. After the third day, the student will be unable to turn in the late assignment without a penalty. The point deduction is as follows:

- One day late = (-10 points)
- Two days late = (-20 points)
- Three days late = (-30 points)

Distance Learning Expectations

- Be on time to the Teams meetings (you will get a calendar invite in Microsoft Outlook for each scheduled meeting).
- Wear appropriate clothing during all Teams meetings
- Keep your mic on mute and camera off unless you have been called on to share.
- You will use the raise your hand function in Teams to get my attention and share your thoughts.
- Be aware of strong language, all caps, and exclamation points when using the chat bar (and yes, grammar and spelling matters).
- Don't post or share (even privately) inappropriate material.
- Attempt to find your own answers. If you are struggling with digital resources and the instructor is not immediately available, please use Google to search for help.
- Be kind and professional.
- Avoid distraction during synchronous (Live) meeting so you don't miss important information.
- ALL Teams meetings will be recorded. A copy of the meeting will be available in the chat stream of that meeting.

General Classroom Expectations:

Be on time

- Silence all technology- if used during class without permission, your device will be taken up for the class period, or if there is repeated misuse, will be turned in to the front office where you will pay a fee to get it back.
- Use restroom during passing period. No student is allowed to leave the classroom for the first 30 and last 30 minutes of each class (there are exceptions for emergencies)
- Sit in your assigned seat unless otherwise directed by the instructor
- Complete ALL assignments given
- Use appropriate and respectful language at all times, both with instructor and classmates
- Bring all required supplies to class (PLEASE bring your laptop every class period)
- Pick up folder and notebook upon entering room, return before leaving
- Resources:
 - Notebook and Folder
 - Bring your own writing utensil (pen or pencil) and loose-leaf paper EVERYDAY

Classroom Rules

1. Be in your seat when the bell rings
2. Be sure cellphones and headphones are put away
3. Be prepared by having your materials for class
4. Be respectful to classmates, teachers, guests, and class materials
5. Be ready to work everyday
6. Keep food out of the classroom
7. Be on time
8. Be in uniform

Discipline Management Plan

- 1st Infraction = Verbal Warning
- 2nd Infraction = Student Conference/Seat Reassigned/Parental Contact
- 3rd Infraction = Teacher Detention/Parental Contact
- 4th Infraction = Referral/Parental Contact

Plagiarism Policy:

Acts of plagiarism are violations of academic policy and will not be tolerated.

All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work, whether it be published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, or whatever. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Turning in work completed in sum or in part for another class is a form of self-plagiarism and is not acceptable in this course. Turning on work that is turned in by another student (unless it is an approved collaborative assignment) is considered plagiarism. Students wishing to pursue an area of inquiry from their prior studies must first seek the approval of their instructor, submit any previous written projects along with their request, and outline the new research questions or issues they wish to investigate.

NOTE: The minimum penalty for plagiarism is a zero on the assignment for a first, “minor offence”; more severe penalties may be recommended and are mandated by the teacher and/or administration.

Important Assessment/Project Dates:

- Campus Based Assessments (every three weeks)
- Snapshots
- DLA’s
- Renaissance BOY
- Fall Final Exams/Projects
- Renaissance MOY
- TELPAS
- STAAR EOC I & II Retesting
- STAAR Spring Testing EOC I & II
- Spring Final Exams/Projects

ELA COURSES

Ms. Walston

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Dear Parents/Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to my class. This is an exciting year for your child, and I look forward to improving their writing and reading comprehension skills along with preparing them for future academic endeavors. I strongly believe that as an instructor, while I do focus on academic progression, I also must supply students with the tools necessary to be successful in life. For this reason, I try to constantly impress upon them the importance of taking responsibility for their actions, time management, and organizational skills—all of which are necessities in everyday life. I am aware that these concepts may be new to some of my students and several of them may struggle with these items initially, but I am confident that students, once familiar with the expectations/requirements of my class, will improve. This packet includes almost everything that your child will need to know in order to be successful in English I this year. Rules, procedures, policies, and expectations have all been outlined thoroughly to prevent any confusion. Please take a moment to review the packet with your child. It will be kept in their binders (with the exception of this page) but if you would like a copy of your own, it is available on my webpage under the directory tab of the Alvin High School webpage. I look forward to this school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. R Walston

I, (student’s name) _____ have read and understand the course information as outlined in the given packet. I understand that my actions have consequences and I will be held accountable for every decision I make. My grade in this class will be earned, not given, and it will directly reflect the level of dedication I have towards my academics pertaining to this class. I have reviewed this information with my parent/guardian as well.

_____	Period _____	_____
Student Signature		Student Printed Name
_____		_____
Parent Signature		Parent Printed Name