



Phone: 713-688-1361

Website: www.houstonisd.org/waltrip

English I Beginner: Course Syllabus - 2020-2021

Instructor: C. Duffy

Email: Crystal.Duffy@houstonisd.org

Room: 2108

Office Hours: Monday (3:25pm-4:10pm) & Tues-Fri (1:50pm-2:35 pm)

[Duffy Office Hours Link](#)

Course Content

This class is intended for beginning students of English. It focuses on increasing students' English language development and skills in the areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing to an intermediate or advanced level. The thematic integrated curriculum provides students with a balanced approach to learning English through a variety of means including excerpts from novels, short stories, and poetry. Students will also participate in vocabulary development, grammar instruction and oral presentations.

Class participation is essential, as we will focus on developing students' impromptu oral language ability while improving their literacy skills. Students will use oral English in various settings: to give instructions, recite poetry and speeches, and to perform research.

Text

The textbooks for the course are as follows:

- *New English Textbook by Pearson available through the HUB's Digital Resources
- *The Hate You Give*, By Angie Thomas
- *Rose, Where Did You Get that Red?* By Kenneth Koch
- *Where the Sidewalk Ends* By Shel Silverstein

Online Resources:

Imagine Learning, Quill, Flipgrid, Newsela

About the Teacher

Ms. Duffy is a native Houstonian and graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. with a double major in Spanish and psychology and a masters in Spanish literature. Ms. Duffy is an author and has extensively published articles and short stories in both print and online publications. She is currently taking courses at the University of Houston toward a master's degree in education administration.

Grading Scale

Throughout the semester, students will demonstrate their mastery of grammar concepts and language skills through both formal and informal assessments, projects and oral presentations. Grading will be based on assessments, class assignments, quizzes, tests, presentations and

writing assignments. Students will receive detailed rubrics when they begin assignments, so they are well-aware of the objectives.

- A: 90-100 %
- B: 80-90 %
- C: 75-79 %
- D: 70-74 %
- F: 69-below

ELP Content Standards Addressed:

1. Use an emerging set of strategies to identify the main topic and recall key details in oral communication and simple written texts.
2. Participate in conversational and written exchanges on familiar topics and text, presenting information and ideas and responding to simple questions.
3. Deliver short oral presentations and complex written narrative or informational texts about familiar texts, topics, experiences or events.
4. Identify the main argument of a text and offer a reason the author or speaker gives to support the argument.
5. Use grammar concepts such as nouns, pronouns, prepositions, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions and prepositional phrases to produce compound sentences.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation on the Microsoft Teams meetings are strongly encouraged; it is difficult to learn the content if you are not present on live Teams meetings. Office hours will be available daily as well as small group instruction for additional help.

***I strongly encourage you to have your video ON during our synchronous sessions. This shows me you are present and ready to participate!

Technology Requirements

In this course, we will use a learning system called the **HUB** to post lessons, assignments, announcements and to provide collaborative opportunities. This class is best viewed through the use of a full desktop or laptop computer.

We will also use **Microsoft Teams** for our online, synchronous class sessions and teacher office hours. You may access Microsoft Teams using your HISD credentials via Houstonisd.org. Please ensure you have your HISD username and password.

Daily Required Materials

1. laptop (or desktop computer)
2. Working Internet connection

Classroom Rules and Online Student Etiquette:

This class will meet on Microsoft Teams for synchronous instruction. During those meetings:

- **Mute your microphone.** Unless you are speaking to the teacher or class directly.
- **Be Polite.** Avoid strong language. No cursing or profanity.
- **Use appropriate dress code on camera.** During our teams meetings avoid offensive clothing.
- **Be mindful of background noise and location.** Where possible, take advantage of quiet areas in your home to avoid distractions to classmates.
- **Respect Others.** Please use the 'raise your hand' button to ask a question.
- **Try your best.** Attend teams meetings and complete class work in a timely manner.

Teacher Note

This will be an unusual year that will pose many unique challenges but I'm here for you, whatever you need. Please communicate any problems or challenges you have as soon as possible.

NOTE: Information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change.