



English II Prep & Pre-AP 2023 - 2024

Phone
281-920-8000 ext. 036206
Website
<https://www.houstonisd.org/westsidehs>

Instructor: Sayyeda Shariff

Email: sayyeda.shariff@houstonisd.org

Tutorials: Lunchtime on Mondays and Fridays or by appointment

Conference Period: 3rd period

Course Content

English II is a chance to dramatically improve your reading, writing, and communication skills, which translate into success in every school subject and every career in life. In the age of technology, no matter where life takes you after high school, it will be imperative that you effectively communicate with coworkers and employers who could be in another city, another state, or even another country.

Course Objectives

- Students will master the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English II.
- Students will practice writing through a variety of essays, quick writes, and group work.
- Students will read a wide variety of literature to enhance his or her knowledge and level of comprehension.

About the Teacher

I am a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors in English Language and Literature. Additionally, I have a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Rice University. I became a teacher because I love helping students and having colleagues who are educators.

I want you to love English and walk out of my room each day knowing class was worthwhile. I look forward to getting to know each of you very much. It's my job to help you succeed, so don't hesitate to let me know when you need assistance.

STAAR EOC Information

Tenth graders take the English 2 End of Course test in April of their sophomore year. Students must pass the EOC to graduate. This year the test is scheduled for April 9-19, 2024.

Daily Materials

- Laptop (charged nightly)
- Writing tools: pen or pencil and highlighter
- Notebook paper or spiral
- Pocket folder of your choice

Grades and Grading Scale

Grades will be based on assignment completion, following instructions, meeting deadlines, teamwork, class participation, comprehension, and mastery of course material.

Prep Major Grades: 70% (includes: tests, projects, essays, Socratic Seminar)

Prep Minor Grades: 30% (homework, class work, participation, quizzes)

Makeup Work and Late Work

If you have an excused absence, it is **your responsibility to see the teacher before or after class or during tutorials** to discuss make-up work or reschedule missed tests/quizzes.

It is crucial to complete assignments on time. In college, professors rarely accept late work. If they do, the grade is significantly lowered. To prepare you for college, **Daily/Minor** assignments are not accepted late. **Major** assignments that are late will result in a letter grade deduction (10 points) for each day the assignment is late (1 day late = highest possible grade of 90%, 2 days late=80%, 3 days and more late=70%). **Major assignments may not be accepted if they are more than 2 weeks late.**

If you have any **extenuating circumstance** preventing you from completing your work, please send me an email asking for an extension prior to the due date. I am reasonable and want to help you succeed. I will be happy to provide you with reasonable accommodations based on your circumstance.

If your class average falls below passing for any reason (missing work, late work, low grades), come to tutoring, and I will work with you to help you pass for that cycle. Build a habit of monitoring your grades frequently and follow up as soon as possible with your teachers if your grade falls.

Retake Policy (From WHS Student Handbook)

- **Only major grades are eligible for retake.**
- The **retake must be completed within two weeks** of the original grade being posted.
- Retakes are provided for original grades that are **70 or below**.
- Retaking or rewriting a test or essay doesn't guarantee a 70.
- Replacement **grades are capped at 70**.
- The full policy can be seen in the student handbook on our school website.

Class Expectations

1. **Be courteous and respectful.** Respect others' opinions, including those that differ from yours. No bullying.
2. Raise your hand if you have a question or contribution.
3. Please do not deface furniture or materials.
4. Do your work and submit it on time.
5. Politely ask for help if you need it.
6. Water is allowed. Snacks may be allowed at teacher's discretion.
7. **Be on time.** If you are late, follow WHS procedures and get a tardy pass before entering.
8. You may not leave the classroom in the **first 10 minutes** and **last 10 minutes**. If you do leave during class, return as quickly as possible. If your trip to the restroom takes an unreasonable amount of time, I will follow up with you and may also follow up with your dean and your parents. Only one hall pass will be allowed at a time.
9. **Phone use and laptop use for entertainment are not allowed during class. Phones should be out of sight. Phones that are out will be taken up for the class period.**

Discipline Information

It is my responsibility to ensure that all students feel welcome and can learn in my classroom. You learn best when you feel comfortable and safe. Inappropriate behavior (disrespect toward peers, foul language, off-task behavior, phone use) will not be tolerated.

STEP 1: Verbal Warning

STEP 2: Verbal Warning and Seat Change if appropriate

STEP 3: Parent Contact and Email to Dean

STEP 4: Parent Contact and Formal Referral to Dean

Unit Overview

| | Prep | Pre-AP |
|---------------|--|---|
| Unit 1 | <u>Memoir</u> Students will read and critique a variety of memoirs and memoir poems. Students will write about their own experiences and compare them to those described by other authors. | <u>Epic Drama - Julius Caesar</u> In Unit 1 students will read Shakespeare's <i>Julius Caesar</i> and explore all the ways the play has influenced today's culture and language. Students will closely study each character's use of persuasion. |
| Unit 2 | <u>Science Fiction Novel: Flowers for Algernon</u> Students will explore the novel genre and read non-fiction connected to the novel's topic and themes. | <u>Mythology - Penelopiad</u> Students will study mythology in depth as they read Margaret Atwood's <i>Penelopiad</i> . The novel is based on Homer's <i>The Odyssey</i> and will prepare students for mythological references in AP literature. |
| Unit 3 | <u>Graphic Memoir - Persepolis</u> Unit 3 explores non-fiction through Majane Satrapi's graphic memoir, <i>Persepolis</i> . While reading the memoir, students will research the background of Iran and the Islamic Revolution. | <u>Persuasive Drama - The Crucible</u> Students will explore persuasion, irony, and characterization in Arthur Miller's <i>The Crucible</i> . |
| Unit 4 | <u>Memoir - Night/Maus</u> In Unit 4, students will read Elie Wiesel's memoir, <i>Night</i> , his personal account of the Holocaust. | <u>Novel - Passing</u> While reading Nella Larsen's <i>Passing</i> , students will study the elements of fiction and discuss questions related to race in 1920's America. |
| Unit 5 | <u>STAAR English 2 Test Review</u> Students review STAAR-tested genres and continue our year-long study of writing in preparation for the STAAR English 2 end of course test. The test is scheduled for a date within the window of April 9 - 19, 2024. | <u>Memoir - Maus</u> In Unit 5, students will read a variety of memoirs, including Art Spiegelman's graphic novel about the Holocaust, <i>Maus</i> . |
| Unit 6 | <u>Epic Drama - Julius Caesar</u> In Unit 6, students will read Shakespeare's <i>Julius Caesar</i> and explore all the ways the play has influenced today's culture and language. | <u>Poetry</u> Students will read a variety of poems, study the elements of poetry, and compare poetry and prose. |

****Units are subject to change****

Important Dates

Open House - Monday, Sept. 11

STAAR English 1, English 2, Biology, and Algebra 1 Retakes: December 5-15, 2023

STAAR English 2 End of Course Test - April 9-19, 2024

Contacting Ms.Shariff

For parents, my preferred method of communication is email: sayyeda.shariff@houstonisd.org. Parents are also welcome to contact me by phone at 281-920-8000, extension 036206.

Students may contact me via Teams, Canvas or email. I'm also available most days during lunch in room E113.

Information & Signature Sheet - English 2 - Messinger

Student Name _____ Class Period _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Phone _____

Parent Email _____

Parent and Student:

Please sign the bottom of this sheet indicating that you've read the information about class.

Parent:

The questions below are optional. Please answer any that you think would help me know your student better. I will keep your answers confidential.

1. What are some of your teen's strengths?
2. What are your teen's interests, hobbies, and activities outside of school?
3. Do you have any tips or suggestions that might help your student learn?
4. What would you like to see your teen focus on this year in English 2?

I confirm that I have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of me in this class. I will put in my best effort every day and will abide by the class rules. I understand that failure to abide by class rules will result in disciplinary action.

Your signature / *Tu firma*

Date / *Fecha*

Parent's signature / *Firma de tus padres*

Date / *Fecha*

*RETURN THIS SHEET WITH SIGNATURES BY FRIDAY FOR A GRADE. KEEP THE SYLLABUS PAGES
IN YOUR CLASS FOLDER. **Thank you!***