



English II Prep Course Syllabus 2022 - 2023

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Instructor: Michael Peña

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Tutorials: Lunchtime any weekday or by appointment

Conference Period: 5th period

Course Content

Students who read and write well create and accomplish incredible things. English II is a chance to dramatically improve your reading and writing 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 in writing 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.
- The student will practice writing through a variety of essays, quick writes, and group work. In addition, students will read a wide variety of literature to enhance his or her knowledge and level of comprehension.

Texts and Materials

Texts: We will be reading various poems, short stories, non-fiction articles, and novels.

Prep Texts:

- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi
- *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare
- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- *Passing* by Nella Larsen

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Daily Materials

- Laptop (charged nightly)
- Writing tool: pen or pencil
- 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.

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

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

Final Exam Grades: 25% of semester grade

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 late=70%). If you have any extenuating circumstance preventing you from completing your work, please let me know 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.

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.
- Replacement grades are capped at 70.
- The full policy can be seen in the student handbook on our school website.

Behavioral Expectations

1. **Be courteous and respectful. Respect others' opinions, including those that differ from yours.**
2. **Raise your hand** if you have a question or contribution.
3. Please **do not deface furniture or materials.**
4. **Politely ask for help** if you need it.
5. **Do your work and submit it on time.**
6. **Water is allowed.** Snacks may be allowed at teacher's discretion.
7. **Be on time** to class. 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.** These will result in parent communication. Phones should be out of sight and silenced. Phones should not be charging.

DISCIPLINE

It is my responsibility to ensure that all students feel welcome and safe 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	
Unit 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Memoir - <i>Night</i></u></p> <p>In Unit 1, students will read a variety of memoirs, concluding with Elie Wiesel's memoir, <i>Night</i>, his personal account of the Holocaust. Students will study the elements of memoir and the impact of non-fiction.</p>	
Unit 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Graphic Memoir - <i>Persepolis</i></u></p> <p>Unit 2 continues the exploration of 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, which greatly influenced Satrapi's life.</p>	
Unit 3	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Epic Drama - <i>Julius Caesar</i></u></p> <p>In Unit 3 students will read Shakespeare's <i>Julius Caesar</i> and explore all the ways the play has influenced today's culture and language.</p>	
Unit 4	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Poetry - <i>Long Way Down</i></u></p> <p>Students will explore poetic devices and how they are used to illustrate the author's message by reading a variety of poems and the novel-length poem <i>Long Way Down</i> by Jason Reynolds.</p>	
Unit 5	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STAAR English 2 Test Review</u></p> <p>In Unit 5, 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 18 - 28, 2023</p>	
Unit 6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Novel - <i>Passing</i></u></p> <p>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.</p>	

Important Dates

Open House - Monday, Sept. 12

STAAR English 1 Retake - Tuesday, Dec. 6

STAAR English 2 Retake - Thursday, Dec. 8

STAAR English 2 End of Course Test - April 18-28, 2023

Canvas and Password Information

We will be using Canvas this year instead of the HUB for posting and submitting assignments. I will assist students with navigating Canvas. Please be aware that this is my first time using Canvas as well.

For security reasons, students will be asked this year to change their laptop password to one they create. It's important to keep track of passwords. Please plan for this and take it seriously.

Contacting Mr. Peña

For parents, my preferred method of communication is email: michael.pena@houstonisd.org

Students may contact me vsr email. I'm also available daily during lunch in room L204.