**My Welcome:**  Welcome to English II! It is my distinct pleasure to be your instructor this semester! This course will provide you with the tools to help you be successful in high school, college and after. Take this course seriously because it could be one of the most important courses you take throughout your academic career. One of my goals this semester is to help you feel confident as you embark upon the rest of your studies. I will guide you, cheer for you, coach you, and hold you accountable. This class as well as your other courses will require time management.

**Course Description:** The English Language Arts and Reading embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. The strands focus on academic oracy (proficiency in oral expression and comprehension), authentic reading, and reflective writing to ensure a literate Texas. The strands are integrated and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

The seven strands of the essential knowledge and skills for English language arts and reading are intended to be integrated for instructional purposes and are recursive in nature. Strands include the four domains of language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and their application in order to accelerate the acquisition of language skills so that students develop high levels of social and academic language proficiency. Although some strands may require more instructional time, each strand is of equal value, may be presented in any order, and should be integrated throughout the year. Additionally, students should engage in academic conversations, write, read, and be read to on a daily basis with opportunities for cross-curricular content and student choice.

**Course Objective**: I to increase your appreciation of reading and writing by exposing you to diverse texts and I will expand your curiosity and speaking skills through inquiry and collaborative learning. I want you to leave this class as an advocate for the self in terms of your academic abilities and needs and be able to apply to the tools learned to multiple areas of life. By the end of this course, you will be able to:

* Monitor your comprehension and utilize reading strategies that help increase your individual comprehension.
* Write academically and be able to express your thoughts by engaging in academic discourse with your peers.
* Develop strong study skills that will help you be successful in the classroom.
* Analyze characteristics of effective goals and create personal goals for your education and future career.
* Strengthen your research and writing skills through reasoning, intellectual curiosity, and the use of technology.
* Increase problem solving skills to find effective and actionable solutions.

**Contact Information:**

Preferred Mode of Communication: TEAMS Chat or Email

Email: p00041345@houstonisd.org

Web Address: houstonisd.org/namisha.joiner

Room: 245

**Materials**:

* HISD issued laptop and charger

**Grade Weight and Grading Scale:**

Formative- 60% (Daily Grades, Quizzes, Homework)

Summative- 40% (Projects, Tests, Essays)

(A=100-90) (B=89-80) (C=79-75) (D=74-70) (F=69-0)

**Honor Code:** Jack Yates High School embodies a spirit of mutual trust and intellectual honesty that is central to the very nature of learning and represents the highest possible expression of shared values among the members of the school community. The core values underlying and reflected in the Honor Code are:

* Academic honesty is demonstrated by students when the ideas and the writing of others are properly cited; students submit their own work for tests and assignments without unauthorized assistance; students do not provide unauthorized assistance to others; and students report their research or accomplishments accurately
* Respect for others and the learning process to demonstrate academic honesty
* Trust in others to act with academic honesty as a positive community-building force in the school
* Responsibility is recognized by all to demonstrate their best effort to prepare and complete academic tasks
* Fairness and equity are demonstrated so that every student can experience an academic environment that is free from the injustices caused by any form of intellectual dishonesty
* Integrity of all members of the school community as demonstrated by a commitment to academic honesty and support of our quest for authentic learning.

**Policy on Electronic Devices: Once students enter classroom, all electronic devices should be silenced and put away such that they are not visible. These include cell phones, headphones, ear buds, etc. Students may only use electronic devices if authorized by teacher. Teachers may use electronic devices for instruction purposes at their discretion.**

**Make Up and Late Work**: Homework and daily class work should be submitted in a timely manner as much as possible. Evaluation on late work will be done on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the teacher. Make-up work will not be made-up during class time; this time will be reserved for planned instruction. It is the responsibility of the student to get make-up work and to return it to the instructor in a timely manner.

**Student Success:** Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

* All required readings, written assignments, projects, etc. completed as assigned
* Participation AND Engagement with peers and the facilitator in class
* Completion of other relevant assignments
* Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

**As your teacher, it is my responsibility to**:

* Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
* Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
* Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
* Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
* Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
* Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

**As a student, it is your responsibility to:**

* Attend class on time
* Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
* Read and comprehend the textbook
* Complete the required assignments and exams
* Ask for help when there is a question or problem
* Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
* Attain a raw score of at least 50% on the departmental final exam