

## English I Syllabus

<u>Instructor</u> Mrs. Leah Ross	<u>Office Hours</u> 4th period + by appointment	<u>Google Classroom Code</u> posted in room 310
Contact Information: <a href="mailto:LRoss@bcswan.net">LRoss@bcswan.net</a> / 910.371.2261		Fall 2025

Spanish Version [Here](#) / Versión en español [aquí](#)

### Course Overview

In this course, we'll read and explore a wide range of literature—short stories, novels, poetry, drama, and nonfiction—while building skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. As the first high school English course, English I serves as a survey of genres and an introduction to the skills you'll need for success in later classes. Using MyPerspectives, our district's ELA program, you'll engage with diverse texts and activities that strengthen comprehension, analysis, and communication. Everything we do is designed to give you a strong foundation for future English courses and to prepare you for college, career, and beyond.

### Materials Needed

School-issued Chromebook (charged or with your charger)	Internet access	Paper & writing utensils
Folder or binder for organizing notes/handouts	SSR/independent reading book	

### Each day, we will...

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> analyze texts like novels, poems, and articles.</li> <li> write arguments, essays, creative pieces, journals, and analytical paragraphs.</li> <li> build grammar and vocabulary skills.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> work together to discuss and understand ideas</li> <li> learn to express ourselves clearly and effectively.</li> <li> develop critical reading and thinking skills.</li> <li> read poetry, novels, plays, short stories, and essays.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

### Selected Texts

Below is a list of texts we may reference this semester (mostly through the new BCS curriculum, MyPerspectives):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Acevedo, Elizabeth – Music</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Browning, Elizabeth Barrett – How Do I Love Thee?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Calhoun, Ada – How Civil Rights Changed America: Do We Need Understanding?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cofer, Judith Ortiz – Romeo and Juliet and the Dollar/Parts of Love</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dove, Rita – For My People, Heart to Heart</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hamilton, Edith – Pyramus and Thisbe (retold)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Harris, Misty – If Romeo and Juliet Had Cell Phones</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Homer – Excerpts from The Odyssey</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jackson, Ashawnta – The Civil Rights Group You've Never Heard Of: SNCC</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kennedy, Robert F. – Remarks on the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> King, Martin Luther Jr. – I Have a Dream, Letter from Birmingham Jail</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leguizamo, John – Romeo and Juliet is a Terrible Play</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> McCay, Claude – Futility</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neruda, Pablo – Sonnet XVII</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reynolds, Jason – Excerpts from Long Way Down</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rosenberg, Alyssa – Romeo and Juliet is About Love, but Can't Change That</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shakespeare, William – The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, Acts I-V</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Villoro, Juan – The Voice of the Enemy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Walker, Margaret – For My People</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ynadlow, Yvette Lisa Ndlovu – The Friendship Bench</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

BCS has an approved text/book list. Please refer to it if you have questions; any of these texts may be swapped out with a text from that list throughout the semester.

### Grades

Percentage of Term Grade 	Category	Minimum number of assignments per category	Examples (includes but is not limited to)	
70%	Summative (Mastery) Evaluate comprehensive understanding and mastery of unit standards.	4 per quarter/ nine weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ CCA (Common Cumulative Assessments)</li> <li>➔ Cumulative Project</li> <li>➔ Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Comprehensive Presentation/Performance</li> <li>➔ Essay/Research Paper</li> <li>➔ Labs</li> </ul>

			→ Unit Test	
30%	Formative (Artifacts) Includes daily practice, collaborative activities, and formative assessments that support concept development and skill-building.	9 per quarter/ nine weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Quiz</li> <li>→ Warm-up/Exit ticket</li> <li>→ Daily Practice</li> <li>→ Collaborative Activity</li> <li>→ Activating strategy</li> <li>→ Check for understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Labs</li> <li>→ Journal Entry</li> <li>→ Homework</li> <li>→ Classwork</li> <li>→ Check for understanding</li> </ul>

More information can be found in the [NBHS Student/Guardian Handbook](#).

### Academic Integrity

At North Brunswick High School, all students are expected to do their own work and follow the rules for honest learning (Board Policy 4310). Cheating, plagiarism, or misusing tools like AI not only breaks school rules but also keeps you from really learning and building important skills. Consequences for breaking these rules can include:

- Failing the assignment or course
- Academic probation or other disciplinary actions
- Removal from honors or school organizations

Cheating can also hurt your reputation and make it harder for teachers to write recommendation letters for college, scholarships, or other opportunities. Following these rules helps everyone have a fair and honest learning environment and ensures your education truly matters. Please refer to the NBHS policy for Academic Dishonesty in the [NBHS Student/Guardian Handbook](#).

### NBHS Attendance Policy

- Regular attendance and being on time are essential for learning and success. Students are expected to be at school every day and in all classes on time. If you must be late or leave early, a note from a parent, guardian, or healthcare provider is required within 5 school days.
- Excused Absences: Include illness, medical/dental appointments, death in the immediate family, quarantine, religious observances, court appearances, and approved educational opportunities. Only 7 parent notes per semester are allowed; additional absences require a healthcare provider's note.
- Unexcused Absences: Missing school without an approved excuse may impact grades and your ability to earn course credit. Makeup work may not be allowed for unexcused absences unless a waiver is approved.
- Chronic Absences: Missing 10% or more of school days can hurt learning and may trigger attendance interventions, including Learning Recovery plans. High school students with excessive unexcused absences may need to complete missed work through a structured Learning Recovery process to earn credit.
- Extracurriculars & Athletics: Attendance affects eligibility for clubs, sports, and other activities. Students must meet attendance standards to participate.
- If you are absent (regardless of whether it's excused or unexcused/due to athletic responsibility), it is your responsibility to check in with me and gather what you missed. Do not ask, "Did I miss anything important?"
- The [BCS policy](#) is posted in Google Classroom.

### Class Expectations

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Respect: Treat everyone (including yourself) kindly and fairly.</li> <li>★ Engage: Be present and give your best effort.</li> <li>★ Prepare: Have your work done and be ready to contribute.</li> <li>★ Persevere: Keep trying until you get it.</li> <li>★ Motivate Yourself: Take charge of your own success.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Be Proactive: Ask for help if you're struggling.</li> <li>★ Focus on Details: Little things make a big difference.</li> <li>★ Participate: Speak up and be involved.</li> <li>★ Own It: Check your grades and aim to improve.</li> <li>★ Be Awesome: Make yourself proud every day.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

### Class Procedures/What You Can Expect

1. Put your phone in the wooden grid on your way into the classroom (before you sit down).
2. Be in your seat and ready when the bell rings.
3. Start the Bell Ringer activity (it's graded) ~ this will usually be your Daily EOC Question ~ or independent reading.
4. Listen carefully to instructions for the day.
5. All classwork will be turned into the blue basket at the BACK of the room. You should write your name on all papers you submit.
6. If you fail to submit an assignment on time, your grade in Infinite Campus will be entered as a "1" to alert both you and your guardian of its status. This placeholder alerts you and your guardian that work is missing. Once submitted, it will be graded and updated accordingly. You have until the end of the current unit to turn in assignments for the unit.
7. Late work will be graded in the order in which it is received; current assignments take precedence.

8. Only one student will be allowed out of the room at any given time, and you may not leave during direct instruction (when I'm lecturing or actively teaching at the front of the room).

9. If you need to get out of your seat, please do not disrupt or distract your classmates or my teaching

All procedures, expectations, and policies in the NBHS Student/Guardian Handbook apply in English I.

### Technology 📱

You may bring your phone/device to school, but it must be turned off completely (not just on silent or airplane mode) and put away during instructional time unless a teacher or administrator gives you permission. In room 310, we will place our cell phones in the wooden grid at the front of the room. High school principals may allow phone use during transitions and lunch. Devices may be used before and after school unless otherwise restricted (ex: school buses where they interfere with safety). The BCS policy is attached.

#### ✅ Authorized Use

- Phones may be used only if an **administrator** gives permission for a personal need.
- Devices (phones) are not to be used for classwork.

#### 🚫 Unauthorized Use

- If a phone/device is on, visible, or being used without permission, staff may confiscate it immediately.
- In most cases, the device will only be returned to a parent/guardian.
- Misuse for cheating, bullying, harassment, or inappropriate messaging/photos can result in more serious disciplinary consequences.

#### 🔒 Responsibility & Liability

- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.
- Refusing to give up your phone when asked is considered insubordination and may lead to further discipline.

### Rewards and Consequences 🎯

Rewards		Consequences	
Student receives a high-quality education.	Student may receive a homework/classwork pass.	Student may receive warning.	Student may conference with teacher.
Student's parent/guardian may be contacted and informed of the positive behavior.	Student may receive verbal praise and recognition from the teacher.	Student's parent/guardian may be contacted and informed of the negative behavior.	Student may receive an office referral.

### MISC +

- Check emails and Google Classroom regularly. "I didn't know" won't cut it.
- For assignments, make sure to complete the task and mark it as done in Google Classroom.
- Use proper email etiquette when reaching out to teachers.
- Be on time. This means that you should be inside the classroom before the bell rings for each class.
- To earn your grades, you must do two things:
  - 1) Complete the assignment.
  - 2) Mark it "complete"/"done" in Google Classroom.

Only completing one of these steps will result in a "1" in Infinite Campus. For more information on grades, click [here](#).

\*Any part of this syllabus document is open to change at any point in the semester. You will be notified if any changes occur.

*I'm excited to embark on this journey with you. Together, we'll explore the world through literature and uncover new perspectives. Let's make this semester unforgettable! ~Mrs. Ross*



## **Brunswick County Schools, Policy Code: 4311 Use of Wireless Communication Devices**

The Board recognizes that wireless communication devices, including but not limited to cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios and similar devices, are an important tool through which parents communicate with their children and through which students gather information. The board also understands that excessive use of wireless communication devices may pose significant health and social risks for students. Therefore, to balance these interests and the needs of students, parents, and the school community, the board limits the use of wireless communication devices as provided in this policy.

### **A. Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply.

1. "Instructional time" is the time during which students are assigned to a teacher for the primary purpose of instruction.
2. A "wireless communication device" is any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, including but not limited to cellular telephones, tablet and laptop computers, paging devices, two-way radios, and gaming devices.
3. A device is "turned off" only if it is fully powered off, such as would occur by moving a battery or selecting a "power off" or "shut down" button. A device that is merely silenced or in "airplane mode" is not turned off.

### **2. Authorized Use During Instructional Time**

Students are permitted to possess wireless communication devices on school property so long as the devices are not turned on, used, or displayed during instructional time or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel.

Additionally, individual students may use wireless communication devices as required by the student's Individualized Education Program or Section 504 plan to manage the student's health care in accordance with a documented medical condition. Staff shall not authorize the use of such devices for instructional purposes. High school principals may authorize students to use wireless communication devices during transitions or lunch periods. Middle school and elementary school students will turn off and put away all wireless communication devices for the entire instructional day unless given permission to use them by an administrator.

### **3. Authorized Use During Non-Instructional Time**

Although use of wireless communication devices is generally permitted during non-instructional time and before and after school, the principal may establish additional limitations on the use, possession, or display of such devices consistent with this policy. Use of wireless communication devices may be prohibited on school buses when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the buses. In addition, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs are prohibited from using wireless communication devices during such programs.

### **4. Consequences**

School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, or displayed in violation of this policy. In general, the confiscated device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. However, an administrator may require a student's parent to recover a confiscated device if the student has repeatedly violated this policy.

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

The following factors should be considered when determining appropriate consequences: whether the wireless communication device was used (1) to reproduce images of tests, obtain unauthorized access to school information or to assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; (2) to bully or harass other students; (3) to send illicit text messages; (4) to take and/or send illicit photographs, or (5) in any other manner that would make more severe disciplinary consequences appropriate.

### **5. Search of Wireless Communication Devices**

In accordance with policy 4342, Student Searches, a student's wireless communication device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, board policy, the Code of Student Conduct or a school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.

### **6. Liability**

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of a wireless communication device.

All school personnel have the authority to request and confiscate communication devices from students who are using them inappropriately or when such use is prohibited during school hours. School personnel will not be held liable for any accidental damage to these devices. Students who fail to comply with such requests will face disciplinary actions, which may escalate to insubordination offenses.