

Dear Parent/Guardian,

My name is Amelia (Mimi) Watson, and I am happy to be your child's English 1 teacher this year. I have a B.A. in English from the College of Charleston and an MAT in Secondary English Education from Converse College. I was born and raised in Greenville, SC and am proud to call our city my home. My interests include all aspects of culture including literature, art, food, music, religion, traditions, dance, etc.

The GTCHS handbook states that "a Greenville Technical Charter High School student accepts academic rigor as the main focus of high school, is expected to attend college for training or a degree, has reached the maturity and skill level required to begin taking college courses, has reached a developmental level that allows independent work, and seeks the challenge to learn and to grow." Keep these expectations and goals in mind as your child begins their education at our award winning school!

The first year of high school is a time of great change for all students in many, many ways, and they and I will need your support in order to ensure their academic and social success. My goal is to prepare your 9th grader for future academic endeavors, which includes teaching responsibility, accountability, and self-advocacy *in addition to* academic content. I have high expectations for my students, but I will never ask something of them that they are not capable of doing. I ask that you consistently discuss my class with your child in order to remain aware of his/her assignments, expectations, and progress.

Please take time to review this syllabus with your child and complete the final page which provides your contact information and indicates that you both understand the expectations of my classroom. Then, have your child submit a clear photo of that page on Google Classroom. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will respond within at least 24 hours or on the next business day if you contact me on the weekend or a holiday. The best method of contact for me is e-mail (see address below).

Best,

Mimi Watson
mwatson@staff.gtchs.org

ENGLISH I COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Amelia (Mimi) Ann Watson
B.A. English, College of Charleston
M.A.T. Secondary English Education, Converse College

LOCATION: Building 119, Room 215

E-MAIL: mwatson@staff.gtchs.org

WEBSITE: gtchs.org (Faculty Link) - Google Classroom will be primarily utilized

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays from 2:50-3:30 p.m. in Smart Center

COURSE DESCRIPTION: English 1 is a course focused on a general study of literature with the goal of students mastering key writing, reading, and research standards. Students will demonstrate proficiency in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing and the writing process, and research. To achieve these goals, students will read and respond to selections from a wide range of genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- ✓ Course text: McGraw Hill *StudySync* (supplied by GTCHS); Supplementary texts (supplied by instructor)
 - Book Website:
- ✓ George Orwell's *Animal Farm*
- ✓ Access to Google Classroom and Drive
- ✓ 1 ½" or larger 3-ring binder with dividers (4 labeled sections: Bellwork, Notes, Classwork/Homework, Assessments)
- ✓ Index cards
- ✓ College ruled, loose leaf paper
- ✓ #2 Pencils
- ✓ Blue and/or black pens
- ✓ Highlighters

CLASSROOM POLICIES

ASSESSMENT: Grades are earned and not “given.” Good grades are earned by completing high quality work in a timely manner. Final grades are calculated according to the following formula: 45% for major assessments including tests, papers, and projects, 30% for quizzes, and 25% for minor assessments such as homework and classwork.

If a student fails a course with a grade of 70-74, the student is eligible to retake the course through credit recovery. If a student fails a course with a grade below 70, the student will be required to retake the course.

OFFICE HOURS AND MASTERY: Office Hours are never a punishment! They are a promise that I will be available to help you reach your full potential.

GTCHS wants students to achieve mastery and success in all classes. To achieve this, **my office hours are on Tuesday afternoons from 2:50-3:30 in Smart Center.** All students are required to attend office hours if their current overall average for the year is below 75%. I use this time to work intensively one-on-one or in small groups to ensure mastery of concepts. It is not a time to make up work. Students need to arrive on time and be prepared to utilize the entire 40 minutes. Extracurricular activities do not excuse you from attending office hours.

Reassessment will be available for *some* major assessments (excluding long term projects) following tutoring opportunities with me.

Students will notify parents via e-mail on Mondays during advisory of their grades in all courses. It is highly recommended that all students who earn below 75% on a major assessment attend Office Hours in order to reassess or earn points back up to, but not to exceed, 75%. The manner of reassessment is up to the teacher's discretion. Reassessments must be completed within two weeks of the original assessment. Only major assessments can be reassessed and the reassessment can only be done during office hours, never at home.

LATE WORK AND ABSENCES: Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

- Homework and Classwork: Late minor assignments will be accepted for half credit within 5 school days of the due date. Work needs to be completed in a timely manner so that you are prepared for class discussions.
- Major Assessments: There will be a **10 point penalty** for **each school day** that major assessments are late. Late major assessments will not be accepted after 5 school days.

If you are absent from school, it is your responsibility to contact me for missed assignments on the day you return to class following an absence. Work should be submitted and tests made up no later than *5 school days* after the excused absence. Work will not be accepted after this time period and a grade of “0” will be entered.

TECHNOLOGY: Cell phones are not permitted at GTCHS between the hours of 7:50 and 2:45 unless permission has been explicitly given by the teacher for instructional purposes. In the classroom, this includes all tech devices including but not limited to AirPods and smart watches. Failure to follow

these guidelines will result in confiscation of the device, which can be retrieved by a parent from the assistant principal.

Throughout the year, we will be utilizing articles, essays, news clips, and videos in our exploration of literature in all of its various forms. Videos may be rated PG-13. We will take advantage of the technology that is available at GTCHS. All GTCHS students are given an e-mail address under the school domain. I expect all students to check this e-mail address at least once daily and use it for correspondence with me.

Print before coming to class—if you print after the start of the class, the work will be considered late. I expect all students to print at home, come to school early, or stay late to print in one of the computer labs. I am happy to print for you if you send me the document 24 hours beforehand. I will not print assignments for you at the last minute and consider them on time. As my dad always said, “Don’t make your lack of planning my emergency.” Please anticipate technology problems in advance and always make back-ups of your work. You are in high school and you are responsible for your work; excuses are not recommended!

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, CHEATING, AND PLAGIARISM: These offenses will not be tolerated in any form. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying another student’s work (OF ANY KIND) with or without his/her consent; allowing someone else to copy your work is also cheating. Using AI programs to do your work for you is cheating as well, and this includes programs like Grammarly for anything other than proofreading. According to the Oxford dictionary, plagiarism is taking the work or idea of someone else and passing it off as one’s own.

The repercussion for academic dishonesty/cheating/plagiarism will be:

- Minor assignments: Authentic completion of the original assignment and a permanent grade of 0%.
- Major assignments: Authentic completion of the original assignment with a maximum grade of 50%. *This opportunity will only be given for the first infraction and will not be offered for recurring cases.*

DISCIPLINE: Students will be respectful to me, their classmates, and themselves. Interfering with my teaching or the learning of others will have consequences. In extreme cases, I may go straight to #3.

1st Offense: Warning

2nd Offense: Detention and Parent Contact

3rd Offense: Referred to Administration

MS. WATSON’S CLASSROOM RULES:

1. Absolutely no phones or other electronic devices will be used without permission.
2. No open food or drink other than water.
3. Students will sit in their assigned seats.
4. Students will only leave the classroom in case of an emergency.
5. **Everyone** will be treated with respect.

Please provide your contact information below and then sign and date, indicating that you have read and understand the content of this syllabus. *This page should be submitted on Google Classroom for the first homework grade.* Unclear/incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

PARENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT): _____

PARENT E-MAIL: _____

PARENT PHONE (BEST CONTACT #): _____

I have read this syllabus and understand the requirements and expectations of Ms. Watson's class.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS FOR MS. WATSON:

CHECK OUT MY AMAZON WISH LIST!

