Applied Communications I   **Ms. Sasso/Ms. Bahde/Ms. Sateriale**
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2025- Spring 2026

Citizenship and Responsibility   Collaboration   Communication
Critical Thinking and Problem Solving   Creativity and Innovation

Welcome to Applied Communications I! We are excited to be joining you in this course as we accomplish the main goal of any English elective: improving ourselves as readers and writers. But, this class uniquely focuses on refining these skills as they apply to the working world: speaking in public, communicating in your chosen field of business, being a good citizen, and making good ethical decisions.

In Applied Communications I you will work independently to explore potential careers and document your goals and aspirations. You will also be asked to complete several cooperative projects and thus, learn to work effectively with all types of students.

TERM ONE: Identifying Yourself
Whole class text *Tending to Grace* by Kimberly Newton
Completion of one oral presentation and autobiography project
Read excerpts from memoirs & personal narratives

TERM TWO: Overcoming Obstacles
Read *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone
Complete short analysis paper

TERM THREE: Understanding Others
Book Love - read at least one independent book
Toy company project

TERM FOUR: Making a Start
Poetry unit, including creation of student poems
Book Clubs - read book written in verse (*Clap When You Land*, *Solo*, *Freak Boy*,
        Punching the Air, *Black Flamingo*, *Red Pencil* and others)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Textbooks: In Applied Communications I you will read two books as a whole class - *Tending to Grace* and *Dear Martin.* You will also read student chosen books in both the Book Club and Book Love assignments. Supplemental readings from various vetted sources and databases will be given throughout the course as well as articles connected to current events and the workforce.

Daily Preparation: Please bring something to write with and your Chromebook to each class. Please bring your book with you (when we are actively reading it) so that we can refer to it throughout class. Your folder will stay in the classroom; you just need to bring it to your desk each day.

Homework Policy: The homework for this course will be kept in alignment with the English Department policy calling for purposeful and meaningful homework.

Attendance/Tardiness
If you are absent, get the notes and homework from another student in class or speak with me. It is your responsibility to be proactive. You can also e-mail me linda_sasso@wrsd.net when you are absent, so I can let you know what you are missing. Please check Google Classroom as well for work posted there. You are responsible for knowing the school's attendance policy (16 absences for a year long course).

Plagiarism and Cheating – Academic Integrity
Taking credit for work that is not your own is plagiarism. This includes, but is not limited to, paraphrasing without attribution and copying computer software and/or internet material. If you are in any way unsure if what you are doing is plagiarism, ask me, the librarian, or another teacher. You will receive a zero on any plagiarized assignment. I will also contact your parents/guardians and your guidance counselor. Identical or virtually identical work turned in by two students will each receive zeroes. See the student handbook for more information.

"While AI has been a fixture in modern life for many years, it has recently become imperative that the high school set expectations and parameters for its use. While traditional forms of AI can be used in a positive manner to increase efficiency, the aim of this new policy is to limit and control the use of generative AI. Generative AI, such as ChatGPT, is able to produce content (written, audio, visual) which bypasses the creative functions of its users. Similar to the school's policy on plagiarism, students at WRHS are responsible for submitting their own work, displaying their own understanding, knowledge and creativity. Like with plagiarism, teachers will be monitoring the use of AI within their classroom and student work. **It is the responsibility of the student to prove that AI was not used** by showing the evolution of their work through outlines, drafts, editing, proper citations, etc. If the student admits to using AI or cannot sufficiently defend the authenticity of their work, the consequence will be the same as plagiarism."

Make-up work: You are responsible for reading the school policy on make-up work in the student handbook. I will be available before school every day and after school by appointment only. I will also be able to meet with you during E, F, or G blocks. Weekly assignment sheets will be posted on my Google Classroom. It is up to you to schedule a time to make-up the work. I will not chase after you.

Technology: Chromebooks will still be used in this course - but I will try to limit the amount of screen time in class. Your phone should be placed in the assigned pocket at the beginning of class and cannot be used unless I give you specific permission.

Grading: Your grades will be placed into the following categories.

      Homework

      Quizzes

      Projects

The points for these categories will vary depending on the types of assignments completed each term.

Book Love: You and your parents have received a letter concerning Book Love – an integral component of both Applied Communications I and II. The purpose of Book Love is to engage you in reading by finding written works at the appropriate level and of high interest for you.

Communication: The easiest and fastest way to reach us if you should have questions or concerns would be through the school email: Linda_sasso@wrsd.net or Jessica_Bahde@wrsd.net. We check our email at 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday evenings. Any email received after that time will not be seen until 7:30 a.m. the following day.