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English I and American Literature

2025-26

Grand Meadow PSD
710 4th Ave NE
Grand Meadow, MN 55936

Course Description (English I, Grade 9)

According to the Minnesota Common Course Classification Catalog, English I is meant to “build upon students’ prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing and usually includes the four aspects of language—reading, writing, speaking, and listening.” This course will allow students to become familiar with a variety of reading and writing genres including but not limited to fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry, drama, persuasion, and exposition. Students will also learn how to gain credibility as writers by conducting research using reliable sources.

Course Description (American Literature, Grades 11-12)

“This yearlong course compares representative works from diverse cultures and..literary traditions. In addition to discussing specific literary qualities present within media, students will explore relationships between literary works and the historical and social contexts from which they develop. Students also will regularly produce written work demonstrating topic selection, idea development, organization, clarity, revision and proofreading.”

Attendance

If you know you will be absent, it is your responsibility to turn-in assignments that are due in your absence and to check Google Classroom to find any work you missed. If you are absent on a due date, a grade will be entered as missing, but you will get full credit when you turn it in within the allotted time period.

Homework

All homework will be turned in through Google Classroom or checked during the class period. Assignments will not be accepted via email. Homework is due on the assigned due date. There will be times that students may be given an extension for the due date at the teacher’s discretion. YOU are responsible for ensuring you have attached the correct document for the assignment in Google Classroom. Check comments and written feedback on returned work before asking questions about a grade you earned.

After School Tutorials

If you would like to stay after school to work on your assignments or classwork, I am available from 3:05-3:30 PM. If you think it will take longer to complete your assignments, please come speak with me in the morning, and I will make arrangements to stay later to help you.

Late Work and Revisions

Students may turn in **two** late assignments per semester without a penalty. All late assignments need to be turned in within one week of the due date. Any late assignments beyond the first two will remain a zero (0%).

One project, essay or test **may be revised** with no penalty within one week of the assignment being returned per semester. Students should resubmit through Google Classroom. **Late projects will NOT be accepted.**

Late assignments will be entered as Missing (M), and if it is not turned in within one week, the grade will be permanently changed to zero. Late assignments will be graded as time permits.

Classroom Rules and Procedures

1. Be in your assigned seat if you are in the classroom.
2. You can only have plain water in class.
3. Only one student at a time will be allowed to leave the room at a time.
4. Disruptive behavior including but not limited to the use of toys, electronics, arguing or outbursts will result in consequences.
5. Use school-appropriate language (Inappropriate Language: sexual innuendos, drug references, and cursing). If a student **includes inappropriate language in a project or assignment, the student will earn a zero for that project or assignment.** Parents will be notified.
6. Cell phones should be placed in the assigned pocket. No exceptions. Students may wear smart watches, but may **ONLY** use it as a watch--no messaging or social media.

7. BE RESPECTFUL! Be respectful to your teachers, classmates, and guests always. Respect when someone tells you “no” or asks you to stop doing something that affects them.

Consequences

Please note: The teacher, substitute, or other supervisor has the right to advance the consequences as necessary for the behavior and situation. If a student’s misbehavior is minor, they may remain on steps 1-3 while if a student’s misbehavior is severe, they may advance to steps 4-5 after an initial warning. If a student is sent to the office, the principal could assign a consequence at their discretion.

1. Redirection
2. Verbal Warning (Email or phone call to guardian)
3. Student Conference (Email or phone call to guardian)
4. Sent to the office (Email or phone call to guardian)

Procedures

Every Day students will need:

- Charged Laptop (Please charge it in the evenings)
- Workbook (*My Perspectives*)
- Writing Utensils: Sharpened pencil (Preferably mechanical to reduce touching the pencil sharpener), Pen, Highlighter.
- Google Classroom will be used to post and submit assignments, as well as access handouts. Assignments that are submitted by email will NOT be accepted.
- Parents/Guardians will be invited to Google Classroom and they will be able to opt-in/out of receiving a weekly summary. *****Students must select “Turn In” or “Submit” for an assignment not to be marked missing. If a student attaches a file, but does not select “Turn In” or “Submit,” it is still considered a late assignment.*****

Plagiarism

According to *Dictionary*, plagiarism is “an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the presentation of another author’s work as one’s own, as by not crediting the original author” (“Plagiarism”).

Any student found to be intentionally or unintentionally plagiarizing in any class will face both academic and disciplinary consequences. Instances of plagiarism will compound and follow each student throughout his or her high school career. For each offense, the student’s parents or guardians will be contacted, the student must meet with the teacher of record, and the student’s grade will be negatively impacted per the class guidelines. Students may receive a warning for the first instance at the discretion of the teacher.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Receiving answers from another student
- Copying answers from another student
- Copy and pasting or retyping information without crediting the source
- Crediting the source, but the source information comprises more than 20% of an essay
- Using the text’s sentence structure but replacing words with synonyms while crediting or not crediting the source
- Using the text’s words without using quotation marks to indicate a direct quote, while crediting or not crediting the author
- Using an AI generator to write content on your behalf

Additional Administrative Consequences:

- 1st Offense: 1-hour detention
- 2nd offense: In school suspension
- 3rd offense: Out of school suspension
- Subsequent offenses: Disciplinary action will be left to administrative discretion

In addition to Grand Meadow’s graduated plagiarism policy plagiarizing or engaging in academic dishonesty in English will result in:

- a. The student will meet with the teacher of record to review the plagiarism policy.
- b. The student will attend a 45-minute tutorial to work on the assignment before earning credit for the makeup assignment.

- c. First offense in a school year: The student will have the opportunity to redo the assignment for up to full credit.
- d. Second offense in a school year: The student will have the opportunity to redo the assignment with a fifty-percent deduction.
- e. No extra credit opportunities will be offered to recuperate loss of credit due to plagiarism

Artificial Intelligence

With the ever changing technological landscape and community, the use of AI tools has become more widely available, and the goal in English 9-12 will be to teach students to use AI *ethically* as a tool should they choose to use it. Ethical use of AI includes asking for grammar suggestions, spell-check, transitional words and phrases, and at times brainstorming. Unethical use of AI includes having AI write an essay and changing words to synonyms, asking AI to do your thinking (giving you a thesis, giving you arguments, asking it to execute your project, etc.). The students will have the opportunity to use AI and will learn to cite it appropriately when it is used.

Grading

English I and World Literature grades are weighted by category.

- 30% Homework/Classwork
- 70% Assessments (Quizzes, Tests, Essays, Projects)

Grand Meadow High School Grading Scale		
A	94-100%	Indicates an exemplary level of mastery. The student has not only completed work according to given guidelines but has also used feedback and self-assessment to improve the product. Work submitted has been consistently free of errors, and it is professional in appearance.
A-	90-93%	
B+	87-89%	Indicates a proficient level of understanding. The student understands the content and produces work to given guidelines. The student may not have used feedback or self-assessed the work to improve the product. The quality of work submitted may have errors in the content and the appearance may not be neat and professional.
B	84-86%	
B-	80-83%	
C+	77-79%	Indicates a beginning understanding of the content. The student is continuing to work towards proficiency. The student may struggle with completing tasks in accordance with instructions and guidelines. The quality of work does not meet the expectations for the class.
C	74-76%	
C-	70-73%	
D+	67-69%	Indicates a lack of understanding of the content. Student suggestions for improvement: 1) Seek additional support! Ask questions in class or stop in before school or after school to ask questions. 2) Input assignments into your calendar so that you remember to complete your work. 3) Use suggestions on your returned assignments to improve your work on future assignments.
D	64-66%	
D-	60-63%	
F	0-59%	Indicates a lack of understanding of the content or a lack of effort. A teacher conference is recommended to discuss additional learning strategies and supports for the student.

If you have any questions throughout the year, please reach out to me. Email is the quickest way to contact me, but you may also reach me by calling the school: swilson@gm.k12.mn.us

Guardian Syllabus Acknowledgement
English I/American Literature 2025-2026

Please sign and return this acknowledgement by Friday, September 5th.

I have read and agree to the expectations, procedures, late work policy, revision policy, and consequences for English I and American Literature. I understand the grading scale and the expectations/criteria aligned with the grading scale.

Student Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Name

Date

Is there anything you feel I should know about your child to help them be more successful in my class?
