



## **Pre-AP English II 2024 - 2025**

**Phone**  
281-920-8000 ext. 036289  
**Website**  
westsidewolves.org

**Instructor:** Marjorie Messinger

**Email:** mmessing@houstonisd.org

**Tutorials:** Lunchtime any weekday or by appointment (Request a pass for lunchtime any day.)

**Conference:** Third Period - 9:30 -10:15 Mon, Tues, Fri

### **Course Content**

Students who read and write well create and accomplish incredible things. Pre-AP English II is a chance to dramatically improve your reading and writing skills, which translate into success in every school subject and every career in life. The course content for Pre-AP English II specifically prepares students for the reading and analysis required for AP, dual credit, and traditional college English courses.

### **Course Objectives**

- Students will master the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English II.
- Students will practice writing through a variety of essays, presentations, and group projects.
- Students will read a wide variety of literature to enhance their knowledge and level of comprehension. Emphasis will be placed on the literature seen on the AP and college English reading lists.

### **About Mrs. Messinger**

I am a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors of Liberal Arts. I'm a mom, grandma, dog mom, and avid reader. I became a teacher because I love helping students and having colleagues who are educators.

I want you to love English and walk out of my room each day knowing class was worthwhile. I look forward to getting to know each of you very much. It's my job to help you succeed, so don't hesitate to let me know when you need assistance.

### **STAAR EOC Information**

Tenth graders take the English 2 End of Course test in April of their sophomore year. Students must pass the EOC to graduate. This year the test will be during the following window: April 8-18, 2025

### **Daily Materials**

- Laptop (charged nightly, please)
- Writing tools: pen or pencil and highlighters
- Notebook paper or spiral
- Two folders of your choice - one to hold your class handouts and ongoing work, one to hold your finished writing portfolio

## Pre-AP Texts

We will be reading various poems, short stories, non-fiction articles, and novels, including the following:

- ***The Crucible* by Arthur Miller**
- ***Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood**
- ***Passing* by Nella Larsen**
- ***Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare**

*Passing* will be read independently by students. Ideally, students will purchase their own copy to be used during second semester beginning in April. I will have copies to check out and/or a pdf version if needed.

## Grades and Grading Scale

Grades will be based on assignment completion, following instructions, meeting deadlines, teamwork, class participation, comprehension, and mastery of course material.

**Major Grades:** 70% (includes tests, projects, essays, Socratic seminar)  
**Minor Grades:** 30% (homework, class work, participation, quizzes)  
**Final Exam Grade:** 10% of semester grade

## Makeup Work and Late Work

**Daily/Minor** assignments are not accepted late. If you have an excused absence, **you must come to tutorials to make up minor grades**, discuss make-up work, or reschedule missed tests/quizzes.

### Major assignments:

The lowest grade you can receive on a major assignment is 40. (You turn in nothing.) The reason you don't receive a zero is that the single error of a missed major assignment could then cause you to fail the cycle. If you receive a 40, you still have the opportunity to improve and pass for the cycle.

If you attempt a major, the lowest grade you can receive is a 50.

**Major** assignments that are late will result in a letter grade deduction of ten points immediately at the end of the class period in which the assignment is due. You will have until Friday of the next week, at the end of school, to turn the assignment in without further penalty. Example: Major 1 is due Thursday August 22nd. You have until the following Friday, August 30th to turn it in late and lose only ten points.

After that you have until the end of the cycle to turn in major assignments, but you will lose 20 points.

## Retake Policy (From WHS Student Handbook)

- Only major grades are eligible for retake.
- The retake must be completed within one week of the original grade being posted.
- Retakes are provided for original grades that are 70 or below.
- Retaking or rewriting a test or essay doesn't guarantee a 70.
- Replacement grades are capped at 70.
- The full policy can be seen in the student handbook on our school website.

## Class Expectations

1. **Be courteous and respectful.** Respect others' opinions, including those that differ from yours. No bullying.
2. Raise your hand if you have a question or contribution.
3. Please do not deface furniture or materials.
4. Do your work and submit it on time.
5. Politely ask for help if you need it.
6. Water is allowed. Snacks may be allowed at teacher's discretion.
7. **Be on time.** If you are late, follow WHS procedures and get a tardy pass before entering.
8. You may not leave the classroom in the **first 15 minutes** and **last 15 minutes**. If you do leave during class, return as quickly as possible. If your trip to the restroom takes an unreasonable amount of time, I will follow up with you and may also follow up with your dean and your parents. Only one hall pass will be allowed at a time.
9. **Phone use and laptop use for entertainment are not allowed during class. Phones should be out of sight. Phones that are in use will be taken up for the class period.**

## Discipline Information

It is my responsibility to ensure that all students feel welcome and can learn in my classroom. You learn best when you feel comfortable and safe. Inappropriate behavior (disrespect toward peers, foul language, off-task behavior, phone use) will not be tolerated.

STEP 1: Verbal Warning

STEP 2: Verbal Warning and Seat Change if appropriate

STEP 3: Parent Contact and Email to Dean

STEP 4: Parent Contact and Formal Referral to Dean

## Important Dates

Open House - Monday, August 26th, 5:30-8:00

STAAR English 1, English 2, Biology, and Algebra 1 Retake Window: December 3-13, 2024

STAAR English 2 End of Course Test\* Window - April 8-18, 2025

*English 2 is the only STAAR test added during the sophomore year.*

## Contacting Mrs. Messinger

**For parents**, my preferred method of communication is email: [mmessing@houstonisd.org](mailto:mmessing@houstonisd.org). Parents are also welcome to contact me by phone at 281-920-8000, extension **036289**.

**Students** may contact me via Teams or email. I'm also available daily during lunch in room N130.



## Information & Signature Sheet - Messinger

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parent and Student:**

Please sign the bottom of this sheet indicating that you've read the information about class.

### **Parent:**

**The questions below are optional.** Please answer any that you think would help me know your student better. I will keep your answers confidential.

1. What are some of your teen's strengths?
2. What are your teen's interests, hobbies, and activities outside of school?
3. What would you like to see your teen focus on this year in English 2?

I confirm that I have read the syllabus and understand what is expected in this class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature/*Tu firma*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/*Fecha*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature/*Firma de tus padres*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/*Fecha*

***RETURN THIS SHEET ONLY WITH SIGNATURES BY FRIDAY FOR A GRADE. KEEP THE SYLLABUS PAGES IN YOUR CLASS FOLDER. Thank you!***