English I Syllabus

Currituck County High School

Fall 2023 ● Room F04

**Instructor:** Mrs. Marsha Riordan

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Welcome to CCHS and classroom F04! I am Marsha Riordan, your English I teacher for the Fall 2023 semester. This syllabus will acquaint you with the expectations of the course; ensure that you review the included information carefully. As a student of this course, you are expected to know the whats and whens of assignments, lesson topics, and assessments.

**Course Overview**

English I is a North Carolina graduation-required course and is intended to provide students with foundational skills necessary for success in additional English courses required during high school. Broadly, the course will focus on five main areas of study: reading information, reading literature, writing, language development, and discussion/presentation skills.

In order to master these areas of study, students will complete several readings in various genres, multiple writing-based projects, as well as discussion-based assignments. Each assignment in this course will require students to demonstrate mastery of several skills at once.

In order to successfully pass the course, students must earn at least a 60% cumulative average by the end of the semester.

Letter grade conversions are determined on a 10-point scale.

**Daily Class Flow**

A major adjustment high school freshmen will make is getting used to 90-minute instructional blocks. To help ease this transition, class time will be segmented into chunks. While no day will be exactly identical to another, class time in F04 will be structured as follows as often as possible:

| **Time Frame** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| 20 Minutes | Write into the Day |
| 20 Minutes | Vocabulary/Language Study |
| 10 Minutes | Mid-Class Break |
| 40 Minutes | Reading/Writing Lesson/Seminar |

During project work days, novel studies, and test/quiz days this schedule will be adjusted.

**Class Expectations**

Students in room F04 are expected to follow all rules established in the Currituck County High School Student Code of Conduct. This section highlights some specific policies that are important to room F04.

* **Regular and timely attendance** to class is the biggest predictor of student success. Students are expected to be present, on time, and communicate via email when they are absent.
* **Cell phones** can be a tool; however, Chromebooks take care of the technology needs of students for this class. Thus, cell phones must be turned off upon entering room F25.
* **Honest effort** is valued in room F04; this is a safe space to make mistakes. Any form of academic dishonesty, including copying from another student or the use of artificial intelligence (e.g. ChatGPT) will not be accepted and will be referred to school administrative staff or to the CCHS Honor Court.

**Grading Policies**

Assignments in this class are broken into two categories: *summative assessments* and *developmental assignments*.

**Summative assessments** are given at the end of learning units to determine what level of mastery students have with a portion of course content. This category is weighted at **65%** of a student’s total grade for the course and includes projects, tests, and quizzes.

**Developmental assignments** are designed to provide practice with course content in preparation for relevant summative assessments. This category is weighted at **35%** of a student’s total grade for the course and includes all other assignments not deemed “summative.”

Missing and incomplete assignments are very harmful to a student’s overall average. In order to encourage students to always complete assignments to the best of their ability, the following policies will guide my scoring of submitted assignments:

* Any assignment, in either category, completed in good faith **will** **not** receive a numerical score of less than **50%**.
* Any assignment, in either category, partially completed will receive a score of **0%** until such time as it is completed.
* Any assignment, in either category, not completed will receive a score of **0%**.

Good faith completion is defined as adhering to the directions and success criteria provided for each assignment.

Missing, late, and incomplete assignments *may be revised/submitted only after student/teacher conference*. No assignment is optional.

**Required Materials**

Students will need the following each day:

* Chromebook and charger
* Preferred writing utensil
* Composition notebook

**Final Exam Exemption**

English I concludes with a district exam of reading skills taught in the class; however, unlike state exams, students can be excused from the final exam for this course.

In order to be exempt from the English I exam, students must meet one of the following criteria:

* Maintain a cumulative average of 90% or higher and have ***zero unexcused absences***.
* Maintain a cumulative average of 80-89%, have 2 or fewer excused absences, and have ***zero unexcused absences***.

**Homework**

The only ***assigned*** homework for this class will be occasional readings. On days after a reading has been assigned at home, students will participate in a one-question reading assessment the following day in class.

The only other homework would be unfinished classroom assignments.

**Last Thoughts**

It is my intention to establish a community of learners within my classroom where each voice feels it has a place. Yes, there will be times when this course feels difficult. Yes, there will be moments when frustration occurs. That’s okay!

The transition to high school is the final step toward early adulthood; it is a big deal! Let’s make sure we work together as a team throughout the semester. Never hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Should you need a quick response, please utilize email. My cell phone is always with me! I look forward to a great semester.

Regards,

Mrs. Marsha Riordan