

Pre-AP English I Course Syllabus
Mr. Wendel, Room 116
wendelsworld.weebly.com

Goal:

English 1 Pre-AP is not a normal English classroom. The major expectation in your first two years of high school English on an advanced level is to prepare yourself for college level coursework, beginning in your junior year of high school. It is necessary to understand that there is a necessary time commitment to reading, independent study, and writing. The good news is that you will get intensive practice so you can receive assistance and feedback. At Merced High School, the students in English 1 Pre-AP welcome the challenge and excitement of learning more complex and demanding material. The profile of a true Pre-AP and AP student is multi-dimensional. The student's work ethic is demonstrated by timely, consistent, complete, and high quality response to homework assignments along with consistent, active participation in classroom discussion and presentations.

Entrance/Participation Requirements:

Students are expected to have the following in Pre-AP Eng 1:

1. A proficient or advanced score on the 7th or 8th grade CAASPP test.
2. A writing sample that demonstrates proficient or advanced language skills.
3. A grade of at least a "C" throughout the course.
4. A written statement agreeing to the terms of the class.

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Read and closely examine texts from classical, modern, non-fiction literature such as: short stories, essays, plays, novels, novellas, poems, and articles; incorporate knowledge of academic literary terminology.
2. Write and refine theme analysis, poetry analysis, literary analysis, persuasive research reports, and rhetorical analysis while engaging in regular on-demand writing tasks. Move up at least one point on the 1-9 AP writing scale.
3. Extend knowledge through additional writing genres such as poetry, narratives, editorials, and blogs.
4. Work cooperatively in groups, partners, and independently to create projects, summaries, and analyses.
5. Annotate various texts on a weekly basis in order to deepen and strengthen comprehension and analysis.
6. Deepen vocabulary primarily through exposure to five novels, academic note-taking, and Sadler-Oxford level D Vocabulary Workshop.
7. Engage in regular student-led and teacher-led discussion (like Socratic Seminar).
8. Acquire a deeper appreciation for literature and style.

Contact Information:

You may contact me at the following e-mail: jwendel@muhsd.org

PLEASE NOTE: When e-mailing me please put your name (if a parent, your child's name) and period you have English class in the Subject box. If you do not do this I may not know whose e-mail I am answering.

Materials:

Bring the following materials to class **every** day:

- a. binder with 3 labeled dividers (Start-Up Journal, Notes, and Writing.)
- b. our class novel (library copy or your own personal copy)
- c. **several** sharpened or mechanical pencils, pens, and highlighters
- d. lined notebook paper (college rule) – NO spiral paper!
- e. Laptop – we will use this intermittently throughout the year

Assignment Types and Weighting

Classwork, Homework, Start-ups, Vocabulary, and Annotations 40% Everyday will begin with a start-up task written or projected from the front. After four minutes a stamp will be given to students who have met the minimum requirements of the start-up. You will be expected to read every night because much of our in-class time will be spent discussing the material or reading poems, articles, or short stories that relate to the readings. Homework is due at the **beginning** of the class period. Check what is "due" for each day of the week on the

board. **NO LATE WORK** will be accepted. Homework will consist of nightly independent readings from 10-20 pages in length and some study guide questions, some handouts that we start in class, as well as vocabulary study and assignments.

Language Assessments 10% Your ability to orally communicate is one of your greatest assets. Daily responses in class, presentation assignments, and socratic seminars will all be assessed informally and formally. Don't worry! Expectations will be very clear and attainable by every student.

Reading/Vocabulary Assessments 30% - Our class will have announced reading quizzes, vocabulary quizzes, as well as longer assessments at the end of each unit or book. Part of this score will include timed essay writings. You should be well-prepared through study guides, notes, and class discussion.

Writing Assignments and Performance Tasks 20% - After you have been given sufficient instruction in how to write (in-class models, group writing tasks, and peer edited assignments), you will be assessed on your ability to analyze and synthesize information with on-demand tasks that I will conference with you on.

Absences

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what assignments you missed. You have **two days for each day absent** to make up the work you missed. **Assignments given before your absence are due on the day you return.** All tests except vocabulary will be taken in class the day you return. You will have **1 week** to make up missed tests or quizzes. **Long term writing assignments** (2 weeks or longer) are to be turned in on the due date **even if you are absent.** Please have a parent or another student turn in the assignment if you are not going to be in class on the due date.

Late Work

There is no late work accepted in Pre-AP. Take advantage of extra-credit opportunities!

Extra Credit:

There are **few** extra credit assignments available. Vocabulary flash-cards will be considered for extra credit after every quiz and worth 10 points.

Projected pacing for novels, vocabulary, presentations, and writing for 2016-2017

Dates	Novel/Unit	Writing	Presentation	Vocab Units
August 15-26 (10 days)	"Survival Kit" <i>To Build a Fire</i>	Diagnostic "TIQATIQA"	Socratic Intro	None
August 29-Oct 14 (35 days)	<i>Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes</i>	Narrative Essay Basics Theme Analysis	"Gods for Jobs"	Units 1-3
Oct 17-Dec 15 (39 days)	<i>Tom Sawyer</i> & Excerpts	Literary Analysis Theme Analysis	TBD	Units 4-6
Jan 3 rd - Feb 13 th (28 days)	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	Poetry Analysis Theme Analysis	Graduation Speech	Units 7-9
Feb 14 th - March 24 th (28 days)	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Argument Synthesis Theme Analysis	Dramatic Reproduction	Units 10-12
March 27 th -May 31 (41 days)	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Rhetorical Analysis Theme Analysis	Group Debate	Units 13-16

MHS English Department Academic Honesty Policy

As members of an academic community, students and faculty have the responsibility to foster and maintain Academic Honesty. Academic dishonesty is a serious violation of the trust upon which an academic community depends. Examples of academic dishonesty follow.

Plagiarism/Copying- The definition of plagiarize is “to steal or pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own without crediting the source” (Websters 877). In addition, any unauthorized collaboration, working with or receiving help from others on graded assignments without the specific approval of the instructor, is considered cheating. More specifically, copying from another student’s assignment or letting someone copy your assignment (whether it is word-for-word or partially copied) **is a violation of the English Department Academic Honesty Policy as well as against the MHS policy and California Ed Code 48900.**

Other forms of violation of the Academic Honesty Policy include the following:

- Obtaining an examination prior to its administration
- Using an unauthorized aid during an examination
- Looking at a book, backpack, or purse
- Having materials or information on the desk or within sight
- Knowingly assisting someone else during an examination
- Talking during an examination
- Helping another student cheat on an exam or assignment unless the instructor has made it clear that the assignment is a partner/group assignment

Ignorance of these standards will not be considered a valid excuse or defense. If a student is ever in doubt about an issue of academic honesty, or has any hesitation about a contemplated course of action, the student should consult with his or her instructor, counselor, or associate principal.

Penalties/Consequences for violating the MHS English Department Academic Honesty Policy:

1. Each student involved in the incident (regardless of his/her role) will receive an **F (0) points.**
2. Each student involved in the incident may be **given a referral.**
3. **No alternative assignment** will be given to replace the points lost.

Tardies:

When the bell rings, you must be **in your assigned seat and quiet.** If you are anywhere but in your seat, you will be considered tardy.

Gum Chewing and Eating in the Classroom:

In order to keep our school clean, gum chewing and eating in the classroom are not permitted.

Technology

All cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices, etc. will not be allowed at any time during class unless specified by the teacher. They must be turned off (not on vibrate) and not visible. The item will be confiscated and may be turned into the office if visible during class.

Classroom rules will be enforced according to the school wide discipline plan as outlined for 2016-2017.

Classroom Behavior:

Respect is the keyword in this classroom. Respect can best be defined as thoughtfulness for others. Here are some specific ways in which you can be a more respectful person in the classroom:

1. Whenever another person is talking, listen quietly.
2. Raise your hand if you wish to ask or answer a question.
3. Sharpen your pencil before class begins.
4. Throw away all papers after class.
5. Remain seated at all times.
6. Leave the classroom only after being dismissed by Mr. Wendel.

Bathroom Passes

Since we have passing periods and breaks you will be expected to manage your time well – this includes using the restroom! I do allow for occasional emergencies; more than two times a semester will become an issue.

Grades:

Check Aries regularly as these are updated bi-weekly.

Quarter grades are progress reports and are not recorded on the permanent transcript.

Semester grades are the average of 2 quarter grades, based on points. Semester grades make up the permanent transcript.

A = 90%, B = 80 %, C = 70%, D = 60%. F = 0 to 59%.

I look forward to helping you succeed in Eng1 Pre-AP!

Sincerely,
Mr. Wendel



Student Parent Pre-AP Contract

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the requirements of Eng1 Pre-AP. I welcome the challenge and excitement of learning more complex and demanding material while becoming better prepared for my future. I believe I can do the following:

- 1) Complete multiple novels, essays, and other assignments in given time frames.
- 2) Actively participate in classroom discussion and presentations.
- 3) Complete nightly readings of 10-20 pages.
- 4) Avoid plagiarism as defined above
- 5) Maintain a "C" while in Eng 1 Pre-AP.

Period _____

Student Signature X _____

Parent Signature X _____