

# Pre-AP English 1 & Pre-AP English 2

Elizabeth McCandless

Room 103; Price Hall

mccande@gcsnc.com

(336) 370-8580; ext 1627



Pre-AP English 1 & 2 focus on close reading, use of evidence, and awareness of language choices within a text, with a focus on preparing students for challenging AP courses, increasingly competitive post-secondary goals, and an ever-evolving workforce. The College Board's "Big Ideas" will be integrated across all units:

- Engaging with texts
- Constructing texts
- Focusing on language
- Investigating through research
- Entering the conversation

## Pre-AP English 1 Course Outline (Fall Semester)

- Unit 1: Telling Details
  - Genre Focus: Short Stories and Visual Texts
  - Major Texts: *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Most Dangerous Game*, *The Lottery*, *The Scarlet Ibis*, *The Gift of the Magi*
  - Companion Texts: *The Cask of Amontillado*, *A Poison Tree*, "Life Isn't Fair – Deal With It," "Aztec Sacrifice," "The Dangers of Tradition,"
- Unit 2: Pivotal Words and Phrases
  - Genre Focus: Poetry and Drama
  - Major Texts: *Romeo and Juliet*, "The Human Seasons," "The Cremation of Sam McGee,"
  - Companion Texts: *As You Like It*, "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," "Adolescence and the Teenage Crush," *On Tragedy*, "...Shakespeare in...Prison," "Of Pentameter and Bear Baiting..."
- Unit 3: Compelling Evidence
  - Genre Focus: Essays and Arguments
  - Novels: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Lord of the Flies*
  - Companion Texts: "A Child of...a Generation," "Southern Horrors..." "Anti-Jewish legislation..." "...Trayvon Martin Ruling," "What Makes Good People Do Bad Things," "The Stanford Prison Experiment," "The Madness of Humanity..."
- Unit 4: Powerful Openings
  - Genre Focus: Novels
  - Novels: *Of Mice and Men*, *Animal Farm*, *Anthem*
  - Companion Texts: *Harvest Gypsies*, "...Nichomachean Ethics," *Daedalus and Icarus*, *Flowers for Algernon*, "Conformity," "Stalin..."

## Pre-AP English 2 Course Outline (Spring Semester)

- Unit 1: Moves in Argument
  - Genre Focus: Argument
  - Major Texts: *Anthem*, *The Hate U Give*
  - Companion Texts: "Does it Matter if..." "...Code-Switching..." "...Prison to Professor," "Hate Speech and the First Amendment,"
- Unit 2: Persuasion in Literature
  - Genre Focus: Fiction and Drama
  - Major Texts: *A Doll's House*, *Oedipus*, *The Kite Runner*

- Companion Texts: “Oedipus Complex from BBC Radio,” *To an Athlete Dying Young*,
- Unit 3: Voice in Synthesis
  - Genre Focus: Nonfiction
  - Major Texts: *Night*
  - Companion Texts: “First They Came,” The US Holocaust Museum, *No Man Is An Island*, “The Perils of Indifference,”
- Unit 4: Purpose in Poetry and Prose
  - Genre Focus: Poetry and Prose
  - Major Texts: *Les Miserables*, *Macbeth*
  - Companion Texts: “The Reign of Terror,” “The Plea for Eight Hours,” Machiavelli’s “The Prince,” “The Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan Scandal,” “Morality as Anti-Nature”

\* The order of texts/units may be changed at teacher discretion. Texts may be added or omitted as necessary or fitting for each individual class or student.

### Classroom Procedures:

- Students must be seated and working when class time begins. Students unable or unwilling to do so will be asked to leave until they can begin class with the appropriate focus.
- Students should make use of all class time and remain in their seats until dismissal.
- Students must cease talking when the teacher clearly calls for attention. I should not need to ask you to be quiet.
- No food or drink is permitted in the classroom except for drinks with a sealable lid.
- Only one student may be out of the room at a time and only during non-instructional time. There is a five-minute limit when you leave the room. Students who are gone for excessive periods may lose privileges.

### Homework:

Homework will be assigned regularly. Agendas will be posted daily on Canvas. **Students are responsible for writing homework assignments in their planner/agenda daily.** Do not rely on Canvas or class postings; write it down every day. Daily homework assignments should be placed in the ‘assignment box’ upon entering the class each day. Long-term (3 days or more) assignments will be entered into the Canvas calendar. Work is NOT accepted through email or Canvas dropbox unless specifically stated on the assignment. Each assignment will have submission directions.

### Grading:

This class is graded using a points system.

- Classwork and Homework: 50-150 points each
- Quizzes and Multi-Day Assignments: 200-300 points each
- Projects, Essays, and Final Assessments: 350-500 pts each

\* Be aware that assignments may include a weighting that adjusts the assignment to an appropriate point value. For example, a simple class activity may be scored out of 10 points, but have a weighting x10, so it has a point value of 100.

Some grading notation information:

- Any assignment with a “—” has simply not been graded yet.
- Any assignment with a “0” is missing.
- An assignment with a “1” indicates a technical or user error, such as submission of the wrong assignment or submission in an unreadable format. Mistakes happen occasionally, but if students begin to routinely have errors in submission, then these assignments will be counted late.

### Late Work:

- Work loses 10 pts. or 10% credit for each day that it is late. After 5 days, the maximum grade will be a 50 or 50%. After a unit or major text is concluded, work will no longer be accepted for any grade.
- If an assignment is not submitted at the requested time, is it counted late, even if it is submitted later that same day.
- If a student is present when the work is assigned, then they are responsible for its submission, regardless of any other absences.
- Students will be permitted to redo particular assignments at the discretion of the instructor within 5 days.
- You will have a lot of assignments, so it is in your best interest to complete assignments daily and be aware of deadlines. Late work piles up and quickly becomes unmanageable.

\* If you experience extenuating circumstances, please reach out to the teacher for an extension.

### Tutoring Times / Office Hours

I am always available by appointment before or after school. If you let me know that you need help, we will set up a time that will work for you. Office hours will be posted in the classroom once a schedule has been established.

### Attendance / Tardy Statement

Students are expected to arrive on time each day. Late arrivals will be coded as a tardy in PowerSchool. Students who accumulate excessive tardies will be subject to disciplinary action/referral.

### Make-up Work:

- Make-up work is the responsibility of the student and must be obtained IMMEDIATELY upon the student's return to class. Make-up work should be turned in within three days of any absence, unless special arrangements have been made. A cut-off date will be given prior to each grading period after which no work will be taken, regardless of student absences.
- Once a unit or text has been completed, work from that unit/text will no longer be accepted. Make-up tests/quizzes will be given for three days after the completion of a unit or text. Projects and major assessments will be accepted for up to 5 days after a due date, with a 10-point penalty per day. If re-takes are offered, they must be completed within 5 days of the initial assessment or assignment.
- If an assignment is not submitted at the requested time, it is counted late, even if it is submitted later that same day. If a student is present when the work is assigned, then they are responsible for its submission, regardless of any other absences.
- To see missed activities and assignments, students should log into their Canvas account. Any physical handouts will either be uploaded to Canvas or placed in the "Make-Up Work" box in the front of the room, with the student's name and date of absence. Always check the box if you are absent, as well as Canvas.

### Daily Assignments:

- **Test Preparation**
  - On Monday and Friday, students will begin class with a specific activity (drill, vocabulary activity, test prep, or journal entry). These are intended as preparation for the EOC. Students will complete 1 or 2 questions per day, following the constructed response requirements. Answers will be collected once all questions are done, approximately every 2 weeks.
    - You should enter the room and begin working without ado. You should not need to be told to be seated or to begin working.
    - There will be no make-ups of the warm-up drills given each day. Students who are absent can retrieve items on Canvas. There will also be no late drills accepted. You must have your work each day.
- **Independent Choice Reading**
  - Reading should be fun! It should also be personal. Choice reading is an opportunity for you to rediscover the joy of reading. It is a time when you can explore books that speak to you, reflect your own experiences, or transport you to new and exotic worlds. The research is clear that choice reading is valuable at all educational levels.
  - On Tuesday through Thursday students will begin class with 15 minutes of silent reading.
  - Students may read any book that has not previously been read and is relatively age/level appropriate. (We will discuss text choices more in class.)
  - Students must read a physical book; ebooks, pdfs, etc... are not allowed. Plan accordingly.
  - A classroom library is provided, but since it is fairly limited in size and scope, students are encouraged to make use of the library and are permitted to bring personal books for choice reading time.
  - Students will complete simple assignments based on their choice-reading books each week. At the completion of the text, students will submit a one-pager.
  - Students are required to complete AT LEAST one choice reading text each quarter.

### Mobile Devices:

All students have been assigned a chromebook for daily use. If a cell phone is necessary as an integral part of the lesson, it will be explicitly stated by the teacher. If an electronic device is in use at an inappropriate time, the device will be confiscated.

In an attempt to eliminate distractions, devices should be placed in a visible receptacle upon entering the classroom. If you are not comfortable with this, you may leave your phone in your car, locker, or home.

### Assignment Submission:

Canvas will be used for class discussion, as well as information sharing and assignment notification/submission. Assignments will be submitted both in class and through Canvas. Please check each assignment to ascertain the expectation. Assignments may only be submitted in ONE format. Please do not email assignments; they will not be accepted.

Parents can, and should, view class activity in Canvas. Students should check Canvas daily.

### Materials:

At this point, most students have developed an organizational method. If students need assistance with this skill, I will work with them on an individual basis. I recommend a 3-ring binder with dividers and a folder/tree method in a dedicated "English 1" and "English 2" folder on Google Drive. Students should also come prepared with loose-leaf paper/writing utensils. Art supplies and project materials will be provided when possible but are expected to be treated with respect and care. If students are assigned a textbook, it should be brought to class daily, or as instructed. Novels, or other small texts, should also be brought to class daily.

### Communication:

- Students are expected to check email and Canvas daily. Students are also expected to join the class Remind.
  - Remind Link Pending
- Communication from parents is welcome, but please remember that your student is less than two years away from college. Please push your child to be a self-advocate and proactive communicator.

### Exams and Assessment:

- The district mandates multiple growth measures throughout this course.
- The majority of assessment grades will come from quizzes, projects, and essays.
- **Exam Exemption:** Students in English 1 are eligible for exam exemptions per the GCS Exam Exemption policy.
- Exams in English 1 are district mandated for students who are not exempt. This means that they are not teacher-made.
- English 2 is a state mandated exam, which means that no students are eligible for exemption.