

## pre-AP I (9) Syllabus & Course Guidelines

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English Department - Frontier Central

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**Course Description:** Pre-AP English I encompasses a broad study of literature and nonfiction by authors from different cultural backgrounds and eras. Genres we will study include short fiction, poetry, drama, literary nonfiction, expository, or informational writing, and the novel. Our emphasis will be on building comprehension of these texts through thoughtful class discussions and assignments designed to place the reader -- *you* -- in a position of authority. This means that everyone in the class will be able to talk purposefully about the material and help other students see these texts through different lenses and from different angles. We will use our understanding of the elements of literature (character, conflict, imagery, etc.) to further strengthen our comprehension and help us gain valuable skills in the art of literary analysis.

### Major Units of Study (subject to change)

- ☉ SSR - Self-Selected, Self-Sustained Silent Reading
- ☉ *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- ☉ *12 Angry Men* by Reginald Rose
- ☉ *The Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- ☉ Selected Poetry
- ☉ Selected Short Fiction & Short Non-Fiction
- ☉ Research Writing - Content & Issues

### NOTE on texts and materials:

- ☉ All necessary materials (*texts, novels, workbooks, etc.*) will be provided by the school district.
- ☉ However; students may find it beneficial to purchase their own copies of certain texts so that they:
  - ...will have access to that text when it is convenient for them.
  - ...may annotate the texts and mark up pages in preparation for class discussions & writing. (school-provided texts cannot be annotated).
  - Students will be provided with a reasonable window of time to purchase their own copies if they choose to do so.
- ☉ When possible, texts will be made available in a digital format (often a PDF) online through Google Classroom. This will allow students access from any device connected to the internet.

### Course Materials

- ☉ A school-issued Chromebook or a laptop capable of accessing Google Classroom and your student apps and school-related materials.
- ☉ A Composition Notebook (*the old-school black & white kind*).
- ☉ Pens or Pencils
- ☉ Two (2) different colored highlighters (you choose the colors).

## Grading Policies

All grading policies align with guidelines within the Frontier English Department and Frontier Central School District. In addition, grade guidelines and rubrics established by the College Board will be used throughout the assessment process.

**Major Grades** (50%) of the overall grade may include:

- ☉ Essays and other Writing Assignments.
- ☉ AP Style MC Tests and AP Writing Assignments.
- ☉ Research Projects.

**Minor Grades** (50%) of the overall grade may include:

- ☉ Composition Notebook Writing and Notes.
- ☉ Class Participation
- ☉ Groupwork & Presentations

**Late Work Policy:** As an AP Pathway course students should understand that late work is generally not accepted. Students are expected to utilize class time and manage their time outside of class in order to meet clear deadlines and due dates.

**Major work** turned in late (*one-day maximum*) will be graded and receive **no higher than an 85%**.

**Minor work** turned in late (*one-day maximum*) will be graded and receive **no higher than a 70%**.

**Note on Late Work:** Students should bring any special or personal circumstances regarding their inability to complete an assignment to the teacher's attention. A teacher may choose to offer a student the opportunity to submit late work as s/he, they deem appropriate, based on the significance of the late assignment, the nature of the student's predicament, etc.

## Attendance (Absences & Tardiness)

Students are expected to attend class and be on time regularly. If an absence does occur, all work will be posted on our Google Classroom site. It is the student's responsibility to check Google Classroom, complete all posted assignments, and contact the teacher if there are any questions. Students who are regularly tardy will be warned after the 1st occurrence, and referrals will be made after the 2nd occurrence.

**Cell Phone & Other Electronic Devices:** Unless permitted by the teacher, all cell phones and electronic devices (iPads, handheld devices, etc.) are to be turned off and put away.

**A Final Note:** All of the points outlined in this syllabus are designed to provide us with the best conditions and resources to make your first high school English experience one in which you grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Everything is in place for us to have a wonderful year together. I have no doubt that we will enjoy each other's company and learn from each other, and am excited to share my knowledge with you and to gain new insights from you. **Most importantly, do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have any concerns.** I look forward to an exciting, thought-provoking year.

**To Parents:** Since student success is a team effort, the lines of communication will always be open. Please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone should you have any questions or concerns.