

Pre-AP English I
Course Syllabus 2014-15
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Skiatook High School

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What is Pre-AP? Pre-AP means Pre Advanced Placement.

A note from the College Board: Pre-AP is based on the following two important premises. The first is the expectation that all students can perform well at rigorous academic levels. This expectation should be reflected in curriculum and instruction throughout the school such that all students are consistently being challenged to expand their knowledge and skills to the next level.

The second important premise of Pre-AP is the belief that we can prepare every student for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and acquisition of knowledge as early as possible. Addressed effectively, the middle and high school years can provide a powerful opportunity to help all students acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning.

See <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/preap/220773.html> for more information.

Course Description:

Pre-AP English I is the advanced study of grammar, literature, and writing. While in this class, students will study and demonstrate knowledge of grammar rules and Standard English Usage, read selected literary works, write essays and reports, participate in group activities, take notes from oral lectures and from the overheard projector or PowerPoint presentations, make presentations, and take tests and quizzes.

Course Objectives:

Pre-AP English I is designed to meet the following Oklahoma State PASS objectives:

1. The student will apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and respond to a wide variety of texts.
2. The student will express ideas effectively in written modes for a variety of purposes and audiences.
3. The student will demonstrate thinking skills in listening and speaking.
4. The student will interpret, evaluate, and compose visual messages.

Required Materials:

The following materials are needed **on a daily basis** in class:

- black or blue pen or pencil (no purple pens, please)
- notebook paper
- binder or other type of folder to keep your papers organized
- textbook or novel currently being read or discussed

The following materials may be required on an as-needed basis. You will be notified at least two days in advance of the need for these items in class.

- colored pencils or markers
- construction paper
- poster board
- other items as required

Grading Method and Scale

90-100	A	Excellent: superior quality of work
80-89	B	Above average: good quality of work
70-79	C	Average: satisfactory quality of work or satisfactory progress
60-69	D	Below expected quality of work
59 & below	F	Failure to meet a minimum quality of work

Grades will be updated weekly. You can always access your current grades and attendance record for each class through the Wengage grading system. You can find a link to Wengage on the school's website (www.skiatookschools.org). The counseling office is in charge of passwords for Wengage. It is your responsibility to check your progress. Grades are figured by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible. Percents of .5 or above will be rounded to the next whole number.

Testing Methods

Tests will consist primarily of fill-in-the-blank and essay questions. There will also be a variety of other methods such as true/false, multiple choice, and lists. If you have an excused absence during a test you will have one week to make up the test either:

- before or after school,
- time permitting, during your class period. However, since we will work every day in class, there will likely not be time during your class period to make up tests or quizzes from previous days.

If you do not make up the test within one week you will receive a zero for the test.

Attendance Policy

The attendance policy of Skiatook High School will be strictly adhered to in this class. You are required to attend each session of this class. *If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to acquire your assignments when you return. If you know in advance that you will be absent for any reason, including school sponsored events, you will be responsible for acquiring your assignments **BEFORE** your absence.* Those assignments will be due upon your return. This applies to testing dates also. Per the SHS Student Handbook, you will not be able to make up tests or assignments missed during an unexcused absence.

Student Conduct

Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will absolutely not be tolerated. The following rules will be followed according to the SHS Student Handbook.

- No eating in class
- No drinking in class (except for bottled water)
- No cell phones in class except during approved times and for approved functions. If you are caught with your phone out in class without permission, I will take it from you.
- MP3 players will not be permitted during lectures, presentations, movies, quizzes, or tests, but may be used while the students work independently at their desks.

Tardy Policy

You must be in your seat with materials ready for instruction at the appointed start time for your class. The SHS tardy policy will be strictly enforced. If you are more than 15 minutes late for a class and your tardy is not excused, you will be counted absent for the entire period.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Dishonesty such as cheating, violating the integrity of tests, or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. A zero will be given for the assignment or test you cheated on or plagiarized. If you allow another person to copy your work or otherwise aid another person in a cheating or plagiarizing incident, you will also receive a zero for that assignment.

Plagiarism is from the Latin, meaning *kidnapper!* To avoid plagiarism, ALWAYS give credit to others for their original words or ideas, no matter if you quote, summarize, or paraphrase. You will use citations to give credit to your source.

Assignment Policy

Assignments are due at the beginning of the next class period unless otherwise noted. *Assignments turned in without a name on them will have 10% of the total grade deducted.* All assignments must be presented professionally with quality, neatness, and well thought-out effort. Illegible assignments will be given a zero.

Outside Reading

Using Google Docs, we will keep an outside reading log for each class. You will be expected to read at least one novel (other than what is read in class) per quarter. Total is four books per year.

Makeup Work Policy

For makeup work, we will follow the procedures in the 2014-15 Student Handbook. In summary, students have one day for every day absent to make up work missed during an excused absence. If an assignment was due the day of an absence, it is due the day the student returns. If a student misses a test, she or he will probably not have classroom time to make up the test; the student will need to make arrangements with the teacher. **It is the student's responsibility to obtain makeup work. These assignments may be found in our "Make Up Binder," which is displayed prominently in the classroom.** Please see the handbook for a more detailed explanation of our

Works We will Read in Class

During the school year we will read the following works, subject to change:

- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- Excerpts of *The Odyssey* by Homer
- Various short nonfiction and fiction works and numerous poems
- If time permits, we may also read either *Ender's Game* or *The Hobbit*

There may be additional novels added to the reading list as the year progresses. I often request that students purchase copies of the novels or plays that we read in class so that students receive the benefits of annotating in the margin of their books as we read and discuss the works. Annotating is a proven active reading method that helps students comprehend and remember the work as they actively engage in the process of reading. Purchasing the novels or plays we will read is not, however, a requirement. I will let you know when it is time to purchase the novels or plays and which edition will be best for our in class reading. **Please do not purchase copies of the novels before we have discussed their purchase in class, as I can sometimes receive teacher discounts.**

Technology

We'll be using technology in various ways in this class. You'll be required to register for your school email address. We'll use Google Docs for some of our assignments. If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, don't worry! We'll visit the computer lab often, and I will also arrange for lab time during before/after school hours.

Tulsa City-County Library

The TCCL Teen Librarian will visit our classroom. As a part of her visit, you'll have the chance to sign up for a library card! Your TCCL library card will help you gain access to excellent research materials, among other things. If you already have a library card, you're a step ahead!

Words to Remember**Respect**

- Respect yourself, your classmates, your teachers, and your school.
- Do not interrupt when others are talking.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Responsibility

- Be in your seat when the bell rings.
- Turn in your papers when they are due.

If you need a conference or extra help, please let me know. I am at school by 7:45 each day, and you are welcome to come in then. I will remain at school until at least 3:00 daily, and I will gladly stay later if you make an appointment. I can also be available during lunch or during my planning period if necessary. If possible, please let me know at least one day in advance of your need to meet with me.

Let's have a great year!

-Mrs. Garrison

This syllabus has been adapted from J. Morgan's syllabus for the same class, 2012-13.

This Pre-AP Freshmen English syllabus is the guideline for this class. Both you and your parents/guardians are required to sign the syllabus to indicate you understand its contents. You are required to return this signed portion of your syllabus to me by Thursday, August 15, 2014.

Student **PRINTED** Name _____ Hour _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian Phone # _____

Parent/Guardian Phone # _____

*****Bonus Opportunity!*** Students may earn FIVE bonus points if a parent/guardian sends an email to me at agarrison@skiatookschools.org. This saves me the time of entering parent/guardian email addresses myself. (Sorry, the maximum is five points, even if multiple parents/guardians send email.)**