

# Welcome to English I

Steven Gordon  
Graham High School  
[steven\\_gordon@abss.k12.nc.us](mailto:steven_gordon@abss.k12.nc.us)

*Credit for Course:* 1 Unit

*Textbooks:* There will be a class set in the classroom for student use.

*Novels required:* Novels will be chosen by the students. Novels will be provided or put on reserve at the local library.

## Course Description:

In English I, students continue to develop skills through structured study and independent reading of literary and informational texts. A variety of informational texts as well as four major types of literary texts—fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry, and drama—are read and viewed both inside and outside of class. Through literary texts, students study the author's craft by making inferences, determining point of view, and analyzing theme and figurative language. By reading a variety of informational texts, students analyze an author's development and support of a thesis, create a variety of responses to texts, and examine the ways that bias is revealed in texts. In addition, students continue to develop and use in reading, writing, and oral communication, and knowledge of vocabulary. **Please note: Students must take the NC State Exam for English I. It is worth 20% of the yearly grade.**

## Instructional Philosophy:

Students will be engaged in a variety of challenging real-world projects and assignments to show how effective written and oral communication is used in everyday life. It is my goal to prepare students not only for their college courses, but also for the business world. As such, students will hone their skills on a variety of academic, as well as work related projects. They will be held to high expectations regarding the quality of their work and personal behavior – just as their future college professors and employers will hold them to high standards. Additionally, students will learn to work individually, with partners, and on teams to meet assignment deadlines. There will be frequent opportunities for the student to use technology as a part of their communication skills. Word Processing, Desktop Publishing, Power Point, and Internet research are all common components of class projects and individual assignments. As a teacher, I am entrusted with America's most valuable resources- its youth. I consider myself privileged to have the opportunity to work with your children.

## Abbreviated Standards for English I:

- The student will read and comprehend a variety of literary texts in print and non-print formats.
- The student will use word analysis and vocabulary strategies to read fluently.
- The student will create written work that has a clear focus, sufficient detail, coherent organization, effective use of voice, and correct use of the conventions of written Standard American English.

- The student will write for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- The student will access and use information from a variety of sources.
- The student will design and carry out research projects by selecting a topic, constructing inquiry questions, accessing resources, evaluating credibility, and organizing information.

### Assessment and Grading Plan:

Students are assessed in some way (tests, written assignments, quizzes, class activities) at least once a week. For major assignments, student will be provided with a detailed grading rubric well in advance of the due date.

In this course, grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:

Classwork: 30%  
 Performance Task: 30%  
 Tests: 40%

Grading Scale:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
below 60	F

### English I - Major Projects and Assignments:

#### Reading Assignments

For homework, students will be required to read assignments in their literature textbooks and novels. Generally, students will have homework every night. **Classroom activities, daily evaluations, vocabulary, major tests, papers, and/or projects will be based on reading assignments.** Please know that I have made selections with great care and with the input of other professional educators. All literature will be dealt with in a mature, tasteful manner, with a focus on humane issues and literary merit. Please discuss with me any concerns that you might have regarding the rationale of literary choices.

#### Major Writing Assignments

Papers must be turned in at the beginning of the class period on due dates. Any student absent on the day that paper is due should send the paper to school to turn in via a reliable friend or sibling. Unless there are extenuating circumstances (such as hospitalization or a death in the family), **late papers will not be accepted, and a grade of zero will be recorded.** Papers must be typed. Students should plan ahead accordingly.

#### Grammar

Mini-lessons on rules of grammar, diction, sentence structure, etc. will be provided. Students will be held accountable for applying the grammar rules in their writing. Grammar will be addressed on an individual basis when I evaluate students' papers.

#### Tests / Oral Presentations / Projects

Some form of major assessment is given every one to two weeks. Format of assessment varies to give the students an opportunity to practice different skills and strategies. Detailed grading rubrics for projects and oral presentations are given along with the assignments.

#### Class notes

Notes from the boards, lecture, class discussions, oral presentations, and overhead projector materials are very important. I will also distribute handouts. Notes and study sheets are to be kept in an English-class three-ring notebook (see Materials).

## **Classroom Rules and Procedures:**

- 1) Be in your seats when the bell rings. BE on time.
- 2) Be prepared – bring ALL books and materials to class each day.
- 3) Follow instructions the FIRST time given.
- 4) Show RESPECT – refrain from inappropriate language, behavior, etc.
- 5) Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak or move about the room.

### **Consequences for Breaking Classroom Rules**

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense:	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense:	After class detention and Call Home
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense:	Administrative Referral and Call Home
Future Offenses:	Administrative Referral and Call Home
Severe clause:	Referral to administration.

### **Severity Clause**

If a student ever behaves in such a manner that is totally unacceptable, interfering with my rights as a teacher or with the rights of other students, he will be immediately removed from the classroom, thus eliminating the standard consequence procedures.

### **Absence Policy:**

If absent, students are responsible for

1. Bringing a school-issued re-admit slip to class on the day of return
2. Getting class notes and assignments missed (from a reliable classmate or the instructor)
3. Making up assignments (tests, quizzes, etc.) WITHIN ONE WEEK

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO ASK FOR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS AND TO SCHEDULE MAKE-UP WORK WITH ME.

### **Late Work:**

Late assignments will receive a grade deduction for each day they are late.

### **Bathroom Policy:**

Students will follow the 20/20 rule: **NO** bathroom passes will be given the first 20 minutes of class  
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### **Required Materials:**

- Three ring notebook (at least two inches thick)
- Loose leaf paper
- Pens (blue or black ink ONLY) or Pencils
- Wire bound notebook for journal writing

**Writing utensils and paper will not be provided. Students are expected to bring their own materials to class each day.**

**Extra Help:**

Extra Help is available WITH PRIOR ARRANGEMENT during office hours, lunch, or after school. If a student is not earning a passing grade in my class, I recommend he or she come to extra help as often as possible.

**Parental Conferences and Communication:**

I strongly believe that a student's success in the classroom greatly depends upon the support and encouragement he or she receives at home. I believe that parents and teachers should work together and share information about that child's activities. I encourage parents to call the school to give me a message and/or schedule conferences with me. I am also accessible via e-mail ([steven\\_gordon@abss.k12.nc.us](mailto:steven_gordon@abss.k12.nc.us)). Students will be given a progress report each nine weeks; these should be signed by parents and returned within three days of when the reports are issued. I welcome your comments and concerns on these reports. I look forward to a successful and productive 2019-2020 school year.