

English 11 & 12 Extended Syllabus

Welcome to English 11 & 12 Extended! This course is designed to emphasize and reinforce the skills and standards of the English 11 & 12 curriculum. Through extensive practice in close reading, discussion, and writing for various purposes, students will hone the skills necessary for critical thinking and effective communication.

Supplies: Bring with you to class every day:

- A binder for this class only
- Plenty of loose-leaf paper
- Pens or pencils
- Handouts, readings, or books, as assigned
- A notebook (spiral or bound) for SSR journaling only

Behavior: In order to accomplish our goals, we all need to contribute to a classroom environment that is comfortable and respectful and encourages people to participate and excel. Respect must be shown for all persons, their writing, property, feelings, opinions and safety.

Discussion and Participation: Because the study and practice of close reading and writing requires discussion, students are expected to actively and energetically participate in classroom discussions, peer editing, and conferences with the instructor.

Attendance/Tardies

- You are expected to attend every class meeting of this course.
- If you are absent, YOU are responsible for finding out about and completing missed assignments.
- Tardies will be handled according to the school policy as stated in the Student Handbook.

Quizzes and Tests: Students are responsible for all assigned reading material and assignments and may be quizzed both orally and in writing on the material. Students may also be quizzed on notes and class readings.

- All tests and most quizzes are scheduled in advance. Being absent on the day(s) before a test or quiz does not excuse you from taking the test or quiz with the rest of the class.
- If you are absent on the day a test is given, you will be expected to take the test on the first day of your return to class.

Grading

- A comprehensive exam given during the final exam period will count as twenty percent of the semester grade.
- All other grading policies follow the OHS English Department Shared Policies and the OHS Grading Handbook.

Silent Sustained Reading (SSR): Two days per week students will engage in Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) and journaling. Why? Consider the following research:

- In 38 of 41 studies, students given free voluntary reading time did as well as or better in reading comprehension tests than students given traditional skill-based reading instruction.
- Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed. Kids who do the most recreational reading become the best readers.
- When it comes to vocabulary acquisition, SSR provides the best investment of reading time.
- SSR results in better reading comprehension, writing style, vocabulary, spelling and grammatical development.
- SSR provides student with an opportunity to develop a recreational reading habit; habitual, recreational reading increases comprehension and vocabulary acquisition.
- SSR is necessary to allow students an opportunity to build their background knowledge.

Statistics are taken from *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research* by Stephen Krashen.

Students will be assessed on their participation in SSR via their SSR journals. Further directions on SSR, book selection, and journaling will be provided.

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Prep Periods:

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