



# English 11

Ms. Foushee

[ebfoushee@olatheschools.org](mailto:ebfoushee@olatheschools.org)

(913) 780-7150 ext. 1316

Room #1316



## ***Course Description***

This course promotes students' critical thinking skills in both verbal and written formats.

- Students will be encouraged to be free thinkers and lifelong learners through literary deconstruction, extending their vocabulary and grammar skills, and by increasing the sophistication of their writing.
- The course integrates fiction and nonfiction sources using mentor texts as a fulcrum in order to promote students to become thoughtful, productive members of society.
- We also incorporate group projects and independent work to increase the material's relevance and encourage engagement.

## ***Course Objectives***

Each unit students will grapple with an essential question by participating in the following exercises in order to develop critical thinking skills. There will frequently be a major mentor text for each unit such as *A Raisin the Sun*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, etc. and supplementary texts incorporating various genres intended to develop the student's thoughtfulness on the essential question.

- Dissect a variety of fiction, nonfiction, imagery, and auditory sources to discern the author's purpose.
- Develop writing skills to be more elaborate with engaging language.
- Use mentor texts as models to develop their own skills and problem solving.
- Debate with peers on the essential topics and ideas.

## ***Expectations***

Be **Responsible**: Come to class prepared with your required materials and homework.

**Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.**

Be **Respectful**: Treat all people, materials, and ideas with respect, even if you do not agree with them.

**Listening to understand doesn't obligate you to agree.**

Be **Engaged**: Be an advocate for your own learning! Set goals, ask questions, participate in class, and be proactive about your education. This will help me to serve you better as your teacher.

**Don't argue to win; ask questions to understand.**

## ***Course Materials***

- A 1 ½"-2" three-ring binder for English 11 only.
- Lined, three-holed college ruled paper.
- A college ruled notebook.

## ***Attendance***

Consistent attendance is a requirement of this course due to the importance of in-class activities. Please follow the following guidelines when absent:

- It is **your** responsibility to get your assignments when you miss school.
- Check **Google Classroom** as assignments will be posted there every day. They are also in the “Missing Work” crate in the room.
- If you are absent the day something is due, it is due the first day you are back in class.
- For assessment given on the day you were absent, it must be made up within two school days for each day you were gone. This will help me monitor your learning.
- For assessments, students have *three* school days from the day the assessment was given to make it up.
- **All missing assessments and assignments must be completed outside of class.**

**IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ARRANGE MAKE-UP WORK.**

## ***Late Work and Retakes***

- No points will be taken off for late work and it will be graded based on the quality of the work; however, it will still be marked as late in the gradebook.
- There will be some non-negotiable deadlines where late work will no longer be accepted. These will be announced in class and communicated home (usually through the weekly progress reports).
- Late work is accepted until a date specified by the teacher within a week of the quarter ending (1st and 3rd quarters only).
- Revisions, retakes, and opportunities for academic recovery are offered often, but at the discretion of the teacher. This approach is supported by decades of research on differentiation, as well as the Olathe district's more recent emphasis on academic equity rather than academic equality.

## ***Grades***

- This course uses the district grade scale (100% - 90% is an A, 89% - 80% is a B, etc.).
- The grades will be weighted based on the category the assessed skill fall under. Grading Categories: Reading-25%, Writing- 25%, Grammar- 20%, Vocabulary- 15%, and Semester Final- 15%
- There will occasionally have “not for grading” assignments to indicate a student's progress without affecting their grade.
- The semester grade is a running total.
- In order to be as transparent as possible between teacher, students, and parents/guardians, we will use the following gradebook codes. Their abbreviations as well as their meanings are below.

## ***Gradebook Codes***

- **NHI** - *Not Handed In* - Grade will remain a zero until it is turned in.
- **LAT** - *Late* - Graded, but late.
- **ABS** - *Absent When Due*. Grade will remain a zero until it is turned in or the code is changed.
- **COM** - *Completed*, but not graded - placeholder until work can be graded and entered.
- **INC** - *Incomplete* - Assignment was turned in, but not completed. This code is used for assignments in which a genuine attempt to complete the work has not been made. Grade will be calculated as a zero until the assignment is completed.
- **CNM** - Genuine attempts are met with no lower than 50% and labeled as “*content not mastered*” (CNM) in the gradebook with the actual grade. For example, a student who earns a 3/10, but has made a genuine attempt at the assignment, will receive a 5/10 *CNM* in the gradebook.
- **NFG** - *Not for Grading* - These are assignments are designed to give the teacher feedback, but will not contribute to your student's grades.

### ***Classroom Library***

Ms. Foushee maintains a library for the benefit of ONW students. Some of the books in this library contain mature content. It is up to individual students and their parents/guardians to make choices regarding which books are most appropriate for them.

Students assume responsibility for any books that they borrow. They will be asked to replace any books that they lose or damage. Failure to follow these rules may result in a student losing access to these libraries.

### ***Academic Dishonesty***

There are many forms of plagiarism ranging from cutting and pasting sources from a book/the Internet to copying a classmate's work, the taking of another's ideas or words and using them as your own, and using artificial intelligence to generate parts or all of your writing. If a student lets another copy off them, they are just as culpable as the person coping. *No form of plagiarism will be tolerated.* Please note the difference between working collaboratively (resulting in interaction and thinking) and copying (which replaces interaction and thinking). The following are consequences for engaging in plagiarism.

- The student will conference with Ms. Foushee.
- Guardians will be contacted, either by the student during the conference or by Ms. Foushee.
- In cases where it is apparent a student has copied all or part of an assignment from another student, from a printed source, or from electronic media, the student will receive a severe academic consequence such as a grade of zero and administration will be notified.
- In cases of plagiarism multiple times, the student will receive a zero as well as be subject to administrative disciplinary consequences.

**If a student takes out the phone during a formal assessment (quiz, test, etc.) before *everyone* is all done, that student will have their phone taken, be written up, and/or fail the exam.**

### ***Internet Resources***

- Google Classroom will be utilized with assignments, resources, reminders, etc.
- Students will be required to submit some papers to turnitin.com. They will not receive a grade until they do so.

### ***Teacher Communication and Availability***

Having proactive communication between the teacher, students, and parents/guardians is a tenet of any strong classroom. I will do my best to clearly communicate course and assignment expectations and directions, and I expect communication from students in return. Once the semester is underway, I typically email out weekly progress reports on Fridays, so guardians are up to date on a student's grades.

I will respond to any form of communication as swiftly as possible. E-mail is the easiest way to get a hold of me since ONW does not have direct phone lines to classrooms.

***PLEASE NOTE: FOR ANY SPECIFIC POLICY OR PROCEDURE NOT LISTED, DEFAULT TO THE OLATHE NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK.***