

# English 1: Freshman Prose

## Fall Semester

<b>Instructor</b>	Mr. Neville	<b>Room</b>	250
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We will strengthen your background in the basic elements and styles of literature by focusing our attention on a variety of literary works, authors, and genres. We will read extensively to better understand the purpose of literature, how it is created, and its function in the world around you.

### **Text and Units of Study**

*Elements of Literature:*

We will be covering the following components in this class:

Short Stories

Nonfiction

Novel: *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Parts of Paragraphs and Essays

Text-Based Writing

Presentation Skills

### **Goals**

1. Increase vocabulary and reading comprehension.
2. Understand the characteristics and purposes of fiction and nonfiction.
3. Improve reasoning and writing by including evidence from content to support arguments.
4. Improve listening, thinking, speaking, and writing skills.

### **Expectations**

No one is obligated to be responsible for you except you. What and how you do in this class is completely up to you and no one can change that. My response to your work and behavior will vary depending on the individual situations.

### **Learning Expectations:**

You are responsible for completing work as assigned. This includes reading assignment, quizzes, and homework. Additionally, tests will be announced well in advance and you should prepare adequately. Your grade will be a reflection of your effort in this class.

### **Behavior Expectations and Consequences:**

In addition to the abiding by the rules found in the GCHS Student Handbook, you are expected to act appropriately at all times in my classroom; if you do not know what this is, we can discuss it. **UNDERSTAND: If at any time your behavior is not deemed appropriate, you will be asked to correct that behavior or to remove yourself from the classroom. Your grade will likely reflect your attitude as well as your behavior.**

### **Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Cheating:**

Plagiarism (**purposeful or accidental**), cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. It is your responsibility to check that your work is properly cited, free of any “lifted” material without mention of the source, and is in fact your own effort. **UNDERSTAND: Any plagiarism will result in a zero for the work. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE!** Disciplinary action will also be a consideration resulting in an office referral.

**UNDERSTAND: Cheating in any form will result in a zero for the assignment as well as disciplinary actions.** Examples of cheating are as follow (but not limited to): copying answers or other information (or allowing others to copy) on any assignment, taking another person’s work as your own, or using any form of a study aid during examinations and the like.

**It is solely at the instructor’s discretion to determine academic dishonesty.**

### **Nuts and Bolts**

#### **Seats and the Leaving the Room:**

You are to be in your assigned seats at all times when you are in this room. If you need to take care of something before the bell rings, do so on your own. Just be sure to be in your seats when the bell rings. **UNDERSTAND: You will be tardy if you are not in your assigned seat when the bell rings.**

You will be given the **VERY LIMITED** opportunities to leave the room to use the restroom, go to your locker, or perform other “errands” as you see fit. There will be times I do not let you leave. Please understand this is for your benefit. **UNDERSTAND: IF YOU ABUSE THIS PRIVILEGE, IT WILL BE REMOVED.**

**UNDERSTAND: No one will be allowed to leave the room for any reason during the last five minutes of class.**

#### **Homework and Late Assignments:**

You will be given one opportunity to turn in homework during the class. Any homework not turned in when requested will be late.

**UNDERSTAND: Late work will receive only a portion of the original credit (1/2 at most).**

Major assignments/papers are the only exception to this rule. Assignments of this type will be reduced 1 letter grade per day.

#### **Website and Missing Work or Absences:**

I have set up a website for this class that can be accessed from your home as well as from the Media Center. All assignments will be posted to this site so you will have access to the work we do daily. It is your responsibility to get any work that you miss. Become familiar with the website as soon as possible. Losing your work or forgetting the assignment is not an excuse. If you are absent, the student handbook takes effect. Be familiar with the rules in your handbook.

**Electronic Devices:**

Use of electronic device is at the instructor's discretion. You are encouraged to use your smartphones to "Google things" that you need to know. Beyond educational purposes, electronic devices are detrimental to your learning, harmful to your social existence and your life, and could be lowering your intelligence. **UNDERSTAND: In addition to these points, being on your phone while class is going on is extremely disrespectful and will be dealt with accordingly.**

**ANY use of an electronic device during testing will be considered cheating; the offender will be given a zero on the exam.**

**End-of-Period Dismissal:**

Remain in your seats and ready to work at all times when class is in session.

**UNDERSTAND: It is disrespectful to pack your things five minutes before the bell and jump up when the bell rings. You need to be patient and I will dismiss you.**

**Grades:**

Your grade in this class will be based on the percentages broken into four categories: Assessments (35%), Writing (35%), and Classwork (15%) and Participation (15%). Grades will be assigned per the grade scale below:

A = 100 - 90

B = 89 - 80

C = 79 - 70

D = 69 - 60

**The final exam for this class is NOT "required" but will count for 20% of the overall grade.**

**Note: Due to a variety of issues that may arise during the semester, this syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion.**