

# English II

Mr. Prince • Rm 142

[www.mrprince.net](http://www.mrprince.net)

*Year-long Course • 1 credit*

## Course Outline/Description:

Studying texts drawn from world literature sources, students develop and express their thinking through reader response and analytical approaches to literature while enhancing their awareness of genre, style, and voice. Students improve their writing through regular composition and conferences with teachers and peers, writing for a variety of purposes and audiences. Communications skills are developed in class discussions and group work. Students sharpen their information gathering skills and synthesize various opinions into an informed conclusion during a major research project that culminates in a word-processed paper. Students confer with teachers about their writing in the Writing Center as well as in class.

## Expectations/Requirements for Your Success:

- Strong critical reading skills, you will be analyzing some difficult material.
- A close eye for editorial precision.
- You are expected to be in class, on time, with your class materials and completed homework, a writing implement and charged MacBook. Meeting these basic expectations is a necessity for your success in this class.
- Participate! your learning depends upon your active engagement. You will enjoy yourself more if you are actively involved with class content. Even on the days that you're "remote", stay connected with class. If you have a routine for when you're out of school, you'll likely have more success.

## Extra Help

Expect me to provide extra assistance whenever you need it. I will almost always be available until 3:00 or later each weekday. Any time you know you will be seeking extra help, try to give me at least a day's notice so I can make sure to be in my room when you plan to come by.

## Grading: (per quarter) (These formulas may change this year as we implement more Standards-based grading)

"Academics"	
40%	Contributing Work (Homework, Classwork, Quizzes)
45%	Final Assessments (Papers, Tests)
15%	Outside Reading

"Habits of Work"	
25%	Prepares for Class
25%	Engages in Class
25%	Demonstrates Effort & Perseverance
25%	Conducts Self Respectfully

## Late Work

Contributing work and papers are assessed at no higher than a 70 if turned in late.

## Class Website

Most of what we do in class will be demonstrated on the ENGLII link of [mrprince.net](http://mrprince.net). Assignments are mostly posted through Google Classroom. You'll receive an automatic alert through your school email when assignments are posted, along with due dates in your calendar.

## Course components

### I. Developing Skills for the I-Search

The centerpiece of Academic English II is the I-Search, the reference paper which occupies students for approximately one quarter of their sophomore English studies. Recognizing the complexity of skills needed to successfully complete this project, the curriculum for Academic English II structures a series of assignments throughout the first semester designed

systematically to introduce and hone these skills, so that students will be ready to synthesize them when the I-Search comes due.

- Separating fact from opinion
- Paraphrasing
- Representing fairly and accurately the point of view of a text (as clearly separate from the student's own point of view)
- Understanding and representing more than one side of an issue
- Articulating the differences between different points of view on an issue
- Exploring an issue by creating scenarios, making analogies, and identifying underlying principles
- Using quotations effectively and correctly to support an idea
- Structuring paragraphs (and papers) to shape an argument rather than present facts
- Citing sources correctly in a text and in the Works Cited
- Arranging, planning, and carrying out recorded interviews as a source of information
- Developing interpersonal skills appropriate to interviewing
- Using online sources in the school library to locate appropriate materials
- Using bibliographic and reference materials in print to locate appropriate materials
- Taking notes effectively from print sources and multimedia
- Organizing notes to make a coherent structure or outline
- Using the outline and word processing capabilities
- Developing self-awareness through journals of one's research and writing process
- Using journals or freewrites to discover and explore one's own thinking
- Drawing conclusions or making decisions about an issue after gathering and examining evidence

## II. Reading and the study of literature

Reading in the 10th grade draws on a variety of sources from world literature, helping students develop a broad awareness of genre, of style, and of voice. There is no concentration on literature from a particular culture or historical period. Texts are chosen primarily because they lend themselves to thematic or structural analysis. With the goal of helping students become aware of their own personal reading process, activities in the literature program include not only formal analysis but also group discussion, personal response to texts, and, on occasion, performance. Choices of texts range from classics to contemporary works to pieces taken from the current media. In some years, a unit on poetry provides an introduction to critical analysis of poetry, helping students develop an awareness of the techniques and strategies in the poet's palette and drawing on a wide range of poetic sources.

## III. Other writing activities

Though the bulk of writing activities in Academic English II involve either the I-Search paper or writing about literature, some versions of the course offer other writing activities as well. These may include creative writing: stories, poems, personal essays, and plays as well as freewriting and journal-keeping, two methods of writing-to-learn.

*Course materials will be selected from among the following:*

### Books:

Achebe *Things Fall Apart* • Bradbury *Fahrenheit 451* • Cormier *The Chocolate War* • Cormier *I Am the Cheese* • Golding *Lord of the Flies* • Hadden *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* • Hersey *Hiroshima* • Mason *In Country* • Orwell *Animal Farm* • Remarque *All Quiet on the Western Front* • Shakespeare *Taming of the Shrew* • Steinbeck *Of Mice and Men* • Trumbo *Johnny Got His Gun*

### Films:

- *12 Angry Men*
- *My Sister's Keeper*
- *Rain Man*
- *Of Mice and Men*
- *Lord of the Flies* (Peter Brook version)
- *Taming of the Shrew* (Zeffirelli version with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton)
- *Taming of the Shrew* (American Conservatory Theater version)
- *Taming of the Shrew* (BBC version with John Cleese)
- *10 Things I Hate About You*

*Note:* New materials routinely enter and exit this and all other English courses, as teachers find relevant and appropriate supplemental texts in newspapers, national magazines, professional journals, and books.