

English I (Co-Taught)
Ms. Johnson and Ms. Rieckman

Contact

As this is a co-taught class, when reaching out via email, please contact both teachers.

Ms. Johnson

asjohnson@west-fargo.k12.nd.us

701-356-2050 x9324

Ms. Rieckman

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Office Location & Hours

Office: 205H

Ms. Johnson Prep: Period 2A & 2B

Ms. Rieckman Prep: Period 2A & 2B

Need extra English help?

Stop by 205H during Period 2A or 2B, or contact us via email/Schoology message!

Course Description:

English I focuses on four key elements of Language Arts: literature, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. The class is designed to help improve a student's ability to think critically about a wide variety of literature, poetry, short stories, a drama, and novels. It aims to strengthen a student's ability to use written language and reinforces their ability to prepare as well as deliver oral presentations /speeches. In addition to daily tasks, students are required to read library books of their choice.

Year At A Glance:

Semester 1	Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction Speech• Short Stories• Narrative writing• Speech / Presentation• I-Search Research Project• Drama / Cultural perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persuasive Research Writing• Nonfiction literature circle / Historical perspectives• Multi-Genre writing• Speech / Presentation• Book Study

This plan is tentative and subject to change. For the most up-to-date plan, please check Schoology

Grading Scale

A = 90-100 (Distinguished)

B = 80-89 (Proficient)

C = 70-79 (Emerging)

D = 60-69 (Underdeveloped)

F = Below 60 (Incomplete)

Basis for Grade:

Daily work, openers, journals, tests, quizzes, projects, speeches, group activities, participation, effort, responsibility, and critical assessments (must be completed to receive credit).

Engagement:

Engagement is NOT a choice.

Be prepared to participate--If you prepare by completing work, you will always have an answer to offer up.

EVERYONE does EVERYTHING!

Make-Up, Late / Missing Work, and Assignment Revisions

Be ready to turn in assignments on time (use Schoology and our posted lesson plans to help with this!)

- Life happens. If you have an extenuating circumstance, communicate with us—we are human too!
- Students are expected to complete ALL assignments. All late work is due by the end of the unit.
 - **LATE WORK: If you are unable to finish an assignment on time, you MUST email your teacher (using template provided on Schoology or down below) BEFORE the due date.**
- Missing work will be entered as a "0" until handed in and denoted with an orange flag in PowerSchool. This indicates that the assignment can still be submitted for credit, and the orange flag will be removed when it is no longer accepted.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check what you missed and complete any assignments. Work for absences related to activities must be completed **before** the scheduled absence.

- **Assignment Revisions:** We value learning and striving to improve skills. However, the emphasis should be on improving current skills and aiming for mastery. Conference with one of your teachers to begin the revision process:
 - *Final assessments:* To revise a final unit assessment / project, all of the unit's work must be turned in prior to redoing final assessment. In addition, all work submitted must meet minimum expectations (earn at least 60%) to show baseline skill comprehension.
 - *Formative assignments (Daily Activities / Homework):* To revise a formative assessment, students must have all work turned in and attend a WIN session to conference with teachers / review material. Once this expectation has been met, students can redo the assignment. An assignment can be redone until minimum expectations are met.
 - Any assignment revisions do not take the place of current work (i.e., you must stay engaged in class, complete the current assignments prior to revisions, deadline for current work will not change to accommodate revisions)
 - If you are prioritizing revisions over current assignments (e.g. using class time to work on revisions, missing current assignments due to work being completed on revisions), you may lose the opportunity to complete the revisions for an updated grade.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in high school extracurricular activities, learners cannot be failing more than one course and must have zero detention hours. My goal is always to keep grades updated on a weekly basis. Larger projects may take me longer to grade—please keep due dates and grading time in mind when eligibility is of concern to you.

Classroom Policies

This class will follow all guidelines and policies laid out by West Fargo High School / WFPS, including policies for food and drink, cellphones, and attendance:

- **Norms**
 - In this classroom, we value everyone's input! We will work together to establish a set of clear classroom guidelines that will help you be the best Packer you can and meet school policies.
 - These expectations will be copied on to your syllabus, and *always* will be posted in the classroom and Schoology.
 - You are expected to meet these classroom norms; failure to do so will result in conferences / disciplinary action. Make sure to ask one of your teachers if you need clarification on any established classroom norms.
- **WFHS Food and Drink Policy:**
 - No food in academic areas, including breakfast / lunches; Food in classrooms must be provided by teacher(s)
 - All drinks must be in a container with non-spill lid; Food or drinks NOT in a non-spill lid will be thrown away
- **WFHS Cellphone Policy:**
 - Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Electronic devices are inclusive of cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and school-issued devices.
 - Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the first bell to the last bell of all classes, including during study halls and within flexed learning spaces that are an extension of a classroom.
 - Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence.
 - For additional information, see the full policy in the student handbook, or listed at the end of the digital copy of the syllabus on Schoology.
- **WFHS Attendance Policy:**
 - It is expected that you are in class and on time each day. If you arrive to class after the designated start time for class, you will be marked tardy. Excessive tardiness (20 minutes) to a class period will result in UV.
 - Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence and the student will be assigned one hour of detention. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy.
 - For additional info, see the full policy in the student handbook, or listed at the end of the syllabus.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

The English department recognizes the difference between intentional cheating and accidental plagiarism. Our common definition includes:

- Cheating is the *intentional* use of someone else’s work being presented as one’s own work (i.e. submitting another student’s essay). This is inclusive of utilizing AI technology to complete a portion or all of an assignment.
- Accidental plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another’s work as one’s own (i.e. forgetting a works cited page; not attributing a quotation to the author; not understanding the correct method of paraphrasing a quotation).

The cheating policy follows the WFHS student handbook. This includes a zero for the assignment, a PACK referral, and notification of the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor. Should accidental plagiarism occur, the critical and/or common assessment will be returned to the student for resubmission. For more information, see the full [Cheating and Plagiarism policy](#).

A note on ChatGPT/AI writing/ etc.: AI (artificial intelligence) is an evolving and growing space as I type this. I recognize the tools available to us right now will evolve as the school year progresses. And, I fully recognize that it’s ridiculous for teachers to believe technology like this won’t be available to people in the future.

However, and this is the important part here, the students in my classroom still need to understand the why and how behind grammatical structures, spelling, sentence variety, and the myriad of other things real writing does. This happens by doing the work and getting “messy” with writing, drafting, and revising.

Therefore, the use of AI in this course will be considered cheating and will have the same consequences as listed above.

Collaboration	Compassion	Responsibility	Resilience

Student: I understand and agree to follow the rules and expectations outlined by Ms. Johnson & Ms. Rieckman. If at any time I do not follow by these rules and expectations for work and/ or behavior in class, I accept that there will be logical consequences because of my actions.

(Your First and Last Name-printed)

(Your Signature)

Dear Parents/ Guardians: Your student has been introduced to our classroom expectations regarding course work and behavior. Thank you for taking the time to review the syllabus and classroom management pages as well. Please sign below to indicate you have reviewed the syllabus. In addition, please share how we can best communicate with you (phone, email, etc.). If there are any changes to contact information than what is listed in PowerSchool, please update that below.

If at any time you have questions, please contact us via email (srieckman@west-fargo.k12.nd.us and asjohnson@west-fargo.k12.nd.us). We are looking forward to a wonderful semester in English!

(Parent/Guardian Name (s) –printed)

(Parent/ Guardian signature(s))

I prefer to be contacted by:

☐ Phone

☐ Email

☐ Other: _____

If your contact information is different than what is listed in PowerSchool, please list any changes or contact the office.