

English I Syllabus

Lake Dallas High School 2025/2026 Semester I

Instructors

Long - Hello! I am so excited to welcome our students back for a wonderful school year. This will be my thirteenth year teaching, but it will be my first year at Lake Dallas High School. I have taught a variety of subjects, including United States History, World History, and AP Human Geography. I graduated from the University of North Texas in 2013 with a major in History and a minor in Political Science. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy camping with my husband (who is also a 10th grade Spanish teacher) and our two sons. Most recently, I traveled to Budapest, Vienna and Prague. My goal is to try coffee in as many destinations as possible! When I'm not on campus you can find me scoping out boba tea shops or thrifting. I look forward to working with your students this year. Together we will read, write, and practice critical thinking skills. Please reach out at any point if you have any questions or concerns!

Starnes - I'm looking forward to working with students through a year of reading, writing, and critical thinking. I believe in the power of stories to spark curiosity, build empathy, and sharpen communication. In my classroom, students will explore literature, develop their voices as writers, and make meaningful connections to the world around them.

David - Hi there! This is my second year at LDHS and I am excited to be starting another year with a lot of new faces. This year we will be reading, writing and talking about literature recursively. It is my goal to build complexity and deepen my students' understanding through meaningful conversations in the classroom. Overall, we will have fun while we learn. I am originally from Liberia, West Africa. I am married and have 3 little Falcons this year at the middle and elementary schools. I love being outdoors, reading, writing and spending time with my family. I look forward to seeing you all soar to new heights this year.

In English I, students are expected to master three essential skills over the academic year. While each unit changes focus, the three skills will be taught at increasing levels of depth and complexity. The skills listed below are what students will be capable of performing by the end of the year:

1. **Communication Skills:** Engage in Active Listening and Accountable Talk behaviors; all team members participate meaningfully and are heard and build

consensus over an objective; can formally present information in a clear voice and logical way that is appropriate for the audience.

2. **Literacy Skills:** Uses a metacognitive process in order to comprehend text; analyze the function, and evaluate the efficacy of genre-specific characteristics, and examine a variety of non-fictional and fictional texts and their relationship to the author's purposes, craft, and potential themes.
3. **Composition Skills:** Brainstorm, outline, draft, revise, edit, and publish with correct citations according to a style guide; can articulate their claim with clarity and devise an approach in use of genre characteristics and organizational structure that best conveys that purpose to the intended audience; can take a conclusion synthesized from a variety of sources and convey those findings in a concise and meaningful way that anticipates an audience's prior knowledge and provides the necessary background and explanation needed to follow the primary claim.
4. **Inquiry:** Students engage in both short-term and sustained recursive inquiry processes for a variety of purposes. The student is expected to: ask questions informally during reading, discussion, or writing that helps to articulate a point of confusion; ask questions formally to develop a major research question and plan; locate relevant sources and examines sources for validity and bias; synthesize information from the sources; critique and adjust plans based on results from synthesis; represent sources in a scholarly way (MLA format); present findings in the mode most appropriate for the author's purpose.

Grading:

Your nine weeks average will be composed of the following.

60% - Formatives (Minor Grades)

40% - Summatives (Major Grades)

Units of Study (*All units will include a collection of poems and short stories from the textbook. Units are fluid and subject to change at teachers' discretion*)

Unit 01: Foundations of Reading and Writing for Young Scholars

Novels covered: *Fahrenheit 451*, *Night* (Honors)

Unit 02: Literary Texts: Analysis and Composition

Novels covered: *Romeo and Juliet*

Unit 03: Informative Texts: Analysis and Composition

Novels covered: *The Odyssey*

Major assessments and Skills assessed:

- CFA - Comprehension
- *Fahrenheit 451* Final Exam - Comprehension
- Personal Narratives Summative - Composition
- Literary Analysis - Composition
- *Romeo and Juliet* Exam - Comprehension
- Active Listening/Accountable Talk Video - Communication

English I & II Supply List

1. Loose -leaf notebook paper, college ruled - **No Spiral or Perforated Paper Allowed**
2. Blue or Black ink pens
3. **Composition book** (non-spiral; this must be for English class only)
4. One box of tissue
5. Have a self-selected novel everyday
6. A charged iPad is essential to success in this class.

Tutorials:

David: Mondays 3:00-3:20 pm; Wednesdays 7:00-7:20 am; Also available by appt.

Long: Tuesday 7:00-7:25 am; Thursday 3:00-3:40 pm

Starnes: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 - 3:40 am; Also available by appt.

Late Work:

Please refer to the 2025-2026 student handbook.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with and getting to know each and everyone of you this year!

