



English I Honors Course Syllabus 2026-2027

Course Description

Welcome to English I Honors! Our focus this school year will be learning and developing skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Development and mastery of these important literary skills are important in the Language Arts classroom, and they are critical for high achievement in other school subjects, building strong relationships, and becoming a successful adult.

Honors Policy

Honors English I is more academically rigorous than on-level English I, and the work will be different. Students will be expected to do some work at home and read some of the class texts at home. A reading schedule will be provided in Schoology to empower students to effectively budget time. Students will be assessed on the reading in several ways: reading checks, discussions, and other assignments. If, for some reason, there is an issue or emergency where a student was unable to do the reading, students should communicate this information to the teacher upon entering class, and adjustments will be made, if warranted. Students need to take care of the books as best they can. If there is an incident in which a book is damaged or destroyed, please let me know.

Grading Procedure:

60% major tests, projects, and compositions

40% quizzes, homework, and class work

(We drop 1 minor grade every grading period but no major grades.)

[San Angelo ISD Grading Guidelines](#)

First Semester Exam: Comprehensive for first semester

Second Semester Exam: Comprehensive for second semester

Exemptions: Students have the opportunity to be exempt from **spring semester** final tests.

Late Work: Students may receive full credit for assignments turned in on time. Assignments that are turned in late will receive a reduction of 10%, 20%, and 30% on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd late days respectively. After the 3rd day, the teacher has the option to give you a 0.

Policy for Make-up Assignments: Students have the number of days absent plus one to complete assignments (the counting begins the day the student returns to the class missed) Make-up work is the student's responsibility. ASK for it!

Failing Grades:

All grades (major and minor) recorded by teachers must be a reflection of a student's mastery of the TEKS. To continue to ensure mastery of the grade-level standards, all students who receive a failing major grade (below 70) will be given the opportunity to show mastery of the learned concepts assessed. This opportunity must be completed within the given time frame. Students and parents are encouraged to utilize Public Portal to monitor grades and Schoology to monitor daily assignments. Students with failing averages will be offered multiple opportunities to bring up their grade. If a student fails the semester or the year without completing credit recovery, they will not receive the required English I credit.

Tutorials: (mandatory if not passing)

M-W-Th - 7:40 - 8:10 AM

M-T-W - Bobcat Bock (Fridays available by appointment)

Th - 4:09 - 4:40

Materials:

REQUIRED:

Writing material (paper and pens/pencils)

Notebook

Folder with pockets

Optional but encouraged:

Highlighters

Notecards

Tissues for class use

Markers/Map colors

Passes: Requests will be considered at appropriate times and when the instructor is not delivering information. Students are required to ask first, and then create passes using Minga. Note: The first ten minutes and last ten minutes are considered “black out” times - no passes except in emergencies.

Dress Code: All students are expected to abide by the SACHS dress code.

Safety Protocols: We will abide by all mandated and/or suggested protocols as they are presented to us. Additionally, we will participate in safety drills throughout the year to ensure the safety of all during various dangerous situations.

Electronics: Cell phones must be silenced and put away during the school day. [SAISD Cell Phone Policy](#)

Food and Drinks: Drinks with a sealable lid are allowable. Snacking during class is discouraged, but may be allowed if it does not create a distraction. Ask permission before consuming food during class times.

Tardies: Students arriving after the tardy bell without a pass will be given a TCU (Tardy Counted Unexcused). Excessive tardiness will result in a parent phone call and a discipline referral. Note: Arriving to class more than 10 minutes late will result in an absence. This is state law.

Expectations in the Classroom:

1. Attend class every day; be punctual and prepared.
2. Be courteous and respectful to everyone.
3. Follow directions.
4. Be responsible for your education and your actions.
5. Obey all rules in the district/school handbook.

Consequences for not following class and school rules:

1. Warning: the teacher provides a verbal reprimand/reminder to the student.
2. Parent Phone Call: When disruptive behavior persists, parents will be notified by phone.
3. Detention: teacher assigned consequence - before school, during Block, or after school.
4. Principal Referral: Referral administration for severe behavior problems.

Academic Dishonesty

A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, unauthorized use of AI, or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.

Communication:

Please check your email regularly. Email is the most efficient way to contact teachers. Also, make sure to check SchoolStatus Connect, Public Portal, and your student's Schoology account for information regarding upcoming events as well as daily assignments.

Bobcat Block:

This is a period offered daily for tutoring. It is mandatory that students attend Bobcat Block. If your student does not need specific tutoring, this is an ideal time for them to complete any homework he or she might have.

Everything high school:

Click on this link to look through the [Freshman Bootcamp](#) information. High school is a very different world from middle school. Students need encouragement and involvement from their homes.

McSpadden Bio

Mr. McSpadden is a graduate of Angelo State University, and he has been a teacher for twenty-two years. He has taught all four levels of high school ELA, coached tennis, coached speech and debate, served as yearbook advisor, and served as a UIL coach and coordinator. Mr. McSpadden's students have consistently competed at regional and state events. He is passionate about the art of writing powerfully, and he delights in supporting young writers as they develop their own writing prowess. He believes that reading critically and communicating with conviction are life skills applicable in all trades. Mr. McSpadden relishes opportunities to help students explore their world through literature. A hallmark of Mr. McSpadden's teaching style is his emphasis on engaging in respectful discourse. He strives to model strategies for positive interactions and respectful disagreements, hoping to ingrain in his pupils the notion that the ability to have meaningful conversations with people sharing diverse viewpoints is essential for educational growth. A dad joke connoisseur, Mr. McSpadden is known for his goofy sense of humor, but he is also known for his genuine desire to see young people succeed. Someone once stole Mr. McSpadden's mood ring... he is not sure how he feels about that. He also warns against trusting atoms, since they make up everything.