

# English I Pre-AP Syllabus

Mrs. Ricks/Mrs. Wagner

Rooms: 1807/1808

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are very excited to have your children in our classrooms for the 2021-2022 school year! Please take a moment to read the attached pages with your child. This syllabus is designed to make the classroom a safe, comfortable, encouraging, and organized place in which each student can excel. If you have an email address, please share it with us and save our email addresses as well. Email is always the best way to contact us since phones do not work well in our part of the building. Email also ensures confidential and documented communication. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure a successful school year.

Sincerely,

R. Michelle Ricks; Kaley Wagner

English I Pre-AP Team

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## General Guidelines and Information

*Please check your teacher's Web Page for valuable tutoring information.*

### Course Description:

Students enrolled in English I continue to increase and refine their communication skills. High school students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis. Students edit their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English and produce final, error-free drafts. In English I, students practice all forms of writing. An emphasis is placed on persuasive and expository forms of writing such as logical arguments, expressions of opinion, personal forms of writing, and research. These forms of writing may include a response to literature (literary analysis), a reflective essay, autobiographical narrative, or research paper. English I students read extensively outside of class with intense focus in the classroom in multiple genres from world literature such as fiction, nonfiction, dramas, poetry, media literacy, expository, persuasive, and procedural texts originally written in English or translated to English from Asian, classical Greek, European, African, South American, and North American cultures. Students learn literary forms and terms associated with selections being read. Students interpret the possible influences of the historical context on a literary work.

The following is a brief overview of only the **major** works literature that you may want to purchase for this course. Please note that you do not have to purchase these texts. However, it is *strongly* recommended that you secure your own copy so that you may be able to write directly in the text.

<b>Term 1</b>	<i>Life of Pi</i> by Yaan Martel
<b>Term 2</b>	<i>The Odyssey</i> by Homer (provided in textbook – no need to purchase)
<b>Term 3</b>	<i>Great Expectations</i> by Charles Dickens
<b>Term 4</b>	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by Shakespeare (provided in textbook – no need to purchase)

### General Classroom Rules

1. Follow all directions the first time they are given.
2. Come to class with all necessary materials to fully engage in class work each day.
3. Be in your assigned seat, ready to work when the bell rings. **All personal devices and accessories put away.**
4. Do not interfere with the teaching or learning of others. This includes interrupting instruction to ask irrelevant questions.
5. **Follow all safety rules.** This is a requirement now more than ever due to our COVID-19 safety concerns.

6. Do not use profanity or other offensive language whether online or in the physical classroom.
7. Say or do nothing when someone makes a mistake. We are but human. This classroom has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to any type of bullying. Having this policy allows for a safe, comfortable, and fun learning environment for each student.

### Consequences

In this classroom we will follow the order of the consequences below. Please note: coaches and/or sponsors will be notified if persistent behavior problems occur.

1. A conference/warning from the teacher will occur.
2. You will be assigned 1 or 2 hours of D-Hall and parents, coaches, and sponsors will be notified regarding behavior.
3. Student is referred to assistant principal and parents, coaches, and sponsors will be notified regarding behavior.

Remember: we are all here to learn. Anything that may disrupt this process will be handled appropriately based on the information above.

### Specific Classroom Guidelines and Information

1. **NO LATE WORK** is accepted for daily work and homework for English I Pre-AP students. Students will receive a zero for any assignment not turned in on the due date, which is due at the beginning of the class period. With that being stated, for major assignments, 25 points will be deducted if the assignment is turned in one day late and 50 points will be deducted if the assignment is turned in two days late. If the major assignment is not turned in two days after the due date, a grade of 0 will be placed in the gradebook and may not be made up.
2. **HOMEWORK**: Students should expect at least 30 minutes of homework every night. Students will be required to do the majority of the reading at home, along with working on projects and writing assignments which serve as extensions of the required reading. A “week-at-a-glance” calendar (found on the board in our classroom) is available at the beginning of every Monday so that students can plan their week in advance. Daily Agenda and all assignments are also available in Canvas MODULES. Remember: being absent is never an excuse for not completing homework.
3. **ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS**:
  - a. **Online Submissions**: It is important to note that we will have mainly online assignments throughout the year. These include, but are not limited to: major essays, projects, daily work, and grammar lessons. Students are expected to follow all directions for creating accounts and submitting their assignments in a timely fashion to the appropriate websites, **all of which are free or paid for by Pearland ISD**. By signing this syllabus, the student and guardian understand that it is the student’s responsibility to make sure they have ample time to complete online assignments. It is also to be understood that excuses such as “I forgot my log in information,” or “I didn’t know it was due” will not be accepted as excuses. However, if the student is truly having technology issues, he or she must communicate with the teacher *before* the assignment is due and a solution will be found. A district device is available for students that do not have one of their own that is compatible with required websites and applications.
4. **REASSESSMENT PROCEDURE**: Any individual student who fails an assignment or assessment may ask for the opportunity for re-teaching and reassessment **two (2)** times per term for major grades. The request for re-teaching and reassessment should be made by the student within 3 days after the assessment has been returned or posted to Skyward, whichever is earlier. Students may earn UP TO a 70. If the student fails to demonstrate mastery on the reassessment, the higher of the two grades is recorded. The reassessment may not necessarily be the same assessment, and tutorials are not required but suggested. The opportunity to reassess does *not* apply to assignments turned in late, incomplete, or not completed showing reasonable effort (to be determined by the teacher). Reassessments will only be eligible if the student demonstrates a true effort on the assignment in question. Reassessment will not be allowed for major projects in which *3 or more days* has been provided to complete the assignment. Reassessment will not be allowed for semester and final exams as those are comprehensive in nature. However, the teacher should use milestones in the progression of the work involved for the major project to ensure that students are making reasonable progress to the completion of the assignment. Those milestones could be recorded as daily grades. Refer to the DHS Student Handbook for any additional information.
5. **MAJOR GRADES** are worth 60% of the nine weeks grading period. Major assessments include tests, writing assignments, long-term projects, presentations, etc.
6. **DAILY GRADES** are worth 40% of the nine weeks grade. Daily grades include classroom activities, quizzes, in-class writing samples, grammar, homework, vocabulary, classroom participation, and other in-class activities.
7. **FIELD TRIPS**: Work that is due on the day of a school sponsored field trip should be submitted before you leave for the trip. Always remember you are considered “in attendance” when on a field trip – please submit your work before you leave to avoid penalty if you are unsure of being able to meet the deadline.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** It is imperative that you do not talk during announcements. Even if you do not want to hear them, someone around you may be listening for something important. Every student should be seated and “tuned in” to the announcements during this time.
9. **COACHES AND/OR SPONSORS:** Will be contacted should you choose to misbehave in class, including virtual sessions. Students and parents must be aware that this is a part of our general classroom procedures before a referral is issued to the office. I want to avoid, if possible, office referrals for any student. I typically do not have behavior issues in the class due to mutual respect between teacher and student, an essential component of our class environment.
10. **DRESS CODE:** The dress code is something I take seriously, particularly since safety of all students and staff is even more crucial this year. I expect all students to be in compliance with the dress code, the entire time you are on campus. Should you have any questions regarding the dress code please refer to the Dawson High School’s Parent/Student Handbook” and the “Pearland ISD Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook”.
11. **ID BADGES/MASKS:** Must be shown to me before entering the classroom every single day. There are numerous reasons for this, but most importantly it is for your safety. Please refer to the DHS Student/Parent Handbook for further information regarding this issue. A school-issued ID and a face covering will be required for all students to enter the classroom
12. **BYOD:** We will utilize Pearland ISD’s adoption of the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program. Students will use electronic laptops/computers heavily during the 2021-2022 school year in order to keep instruction equitable and consistent for all learners. Students will be notified if there are times when personal smartphones and tablets are not allowed and are expected to comply without hesitation. Please refer to the DHS Student/Parent Handbook for more information on this program. Please note that taking pictures of anything or anyone in the classroom, recording content **without permission**, and/or using a personal or district-issued device inappropriately will be reported immediately to administrators for consequences. Arrangements can be made, if necessary, for students to use classroom computers in a safe manner, provided that the request is made in advance of the time/day an assignment is due, not at the last minute.
13. **ATTENDANCE:** To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. Students have one class day per excused absence day to complete make up assignments. Students who fail to complete make-up work within these guidelines will receive a grade of zero (0) on the assignment. This assignment will not be able to be made up. If you know you have a major assignment due on the day you are to be absent, your assignment must be turned in by the day it is due. You may email the assignment to me or send it with a peer. All absent work can be found online in Canvas Modules; however, the student should also consult their teacher to ensure they did not miss anything that is not located in Canvas.
14. **ERRANDS:** Students will NOT be permitted to visit other classrooms and/or run errands, look for lost items, etc. during class. Leaving class will be restricted to nurse and emergency restroom visits. Remain seated and focused during class.
15. **FOOD: FOR SAFETY REASONS, STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO EAT IN THE CLASSROOM AT ALL.** Students with medical/dietary concerns will need to address these issues with the school clinic staff. Students may keep a bottle of **WATER ONLY** in their bag/backpack and may take sips as needed during class. **NO outside cups, straws, disposable containers will be permitted. Students will not be allowed to enter the classroom with these items.**
16. **SLEEPING:** We are far too busy each day for sleeping. It is in your best interest to remain awake throughout your entire class period. You will receive a warning for your first offense and a participation grade of (0) may occur should there be a second instance.
17. **TARDIES:** All students arriving to class after the end of the tardy bell will be marked tardy in skyward. A note from another teacher is not a tardy pass. The student will be marked tardy in this class, then may choose to ask their other teacher to have the tardy removed by attendance. On time is defined as in your seat and ready to work when the tardy bell rings.
18. **TEACHER DETENTION:** When a teacher detention is assigned to a student, he/she will be issued a D-Hall slip in which the student will have to serve on the designated D-Hall days. The D-Hall is not served in the teacher’s room. Please refer to the DHS Handbook for more information.
19. **BEGINNING OF CLASS:** This is a crucial part of class. I expect you to come in every day, focused and working on the warm up. Consistent failure to be in your seat and on task upon the bell will result in a conference with you as well as parent communication. For remote learners, this means in front of your device, camera on, mic muted, appropriately dressed, and ready to participate. Refer to online etiquette document for specific details.
20. **END OF CLASS:** **Please do not start packing up your things to get ready to leave until I tell you that we are finished.** You should use the last few moments to pick up any trash, supplies, or textbooks around your desk. Remain in your seat until you are dismissed. Absolutely do NOT line up at the door unless instructed to do so. I also like to use the last few minutes of class each day to debrief and reflect on what we’ve learned that day. This is an excellent time for you to ask any questions you may have.
21. **BULLYING:** All employees are required to report student complaints of bullying to the respective campus administrator or immediate supervisor. Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression or physical conduct that will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or of damage to the student’s property. Bullying of a student may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, and ostracism.

22. **DEFACING SCHOOL PROPERTY:** Students are not to write/draw/color on any item of school or teacher property. Any student who is guilty of this action will receive a detention and parents/guardians and sponsors/coaches will be notified immediately. This all goes back to the idea of showing respect for yourself, your teacher, your classroom, your peers, and your school.

## Online/Email Etiquette

Read the below statements and initial them to acknowledge your agreement to the policy.

Please note, that if you cannot comply with the policies below, you may be deemed “unsuccessful in the online setting” and could be required to come back to school in person. “Unsuccessful” may look like: excessive absences or tardies, inappropriate or uncontrollable behavior, or failure to complete work, etc.

### Communication:

- Use correct grammar, spelling, and professional language in your communications with the teacher and your classmates. A presentation will be shared with further information about appropriate communication through email/Canvas messaging.
- Do not interrupt the teacher or your classmates. If you have a question raise your hand and wait for the teacher to call on you. Be sure questions, both in person and in email, are relevant and respectful.
- Do not talk or do other things while a classmate is speaking or presenting – give them your full attention.
- If you wish to communicate privately with the teacher, use either the teacher’s email or your Canvas message center.

### Cheating and Plagiarism:

- The Pearland ISD policy is in effect.
- Remember you cannot repeat, re-do, or re-assess the zero that you earn from cheating.
- ANY unauthorized assistance is considered cheating, including your peers, your parents/guardians, the internet, etc. Unless I give you permission in the instructions to use a particular resource, it is not allowed. (For example, if I say you may use your book, but you use sparknotes.com OR ask a peer to revise before submitting, this would be considered Academic Dishonesty).

## Cheating/Plagiarism Policy

### DHS Student Handbook 2020-2021

Dawson High School is dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge through a structured program of instruction and learning. At the heart of this endeavor, are the core values of academic integrity which include honesty, truth, and freedom from lies and fraud. Because personal integrity is important in all aspects of life, students at Dawson High School are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity in and out of the classroom. Incidents of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and students guilty of such conducts are subject to disciplinary measures.

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is any form of cheating and/or plagiarism which results in students giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise or receiving credit for work which is not their own.

#### Cheating includes, but it not limited to the following:

- Using any sources not authorized by the teacher (textbooks, notes, the work of other students, etc.) to complete examinations or other assignments
- Using unauthorized electronic equipment (including cell phones) during an examination or other assignment.
- Altering or tampering with grades
- Using/borrowing a peer’s work to complete your own

#### Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Using the ideas and/or words of another person without giving that person appropriate credit
2. Representing another’s artistic or scholarly works as your own
3. Submitting a paper purchased from a paper research service, including the internet
4. Using undocumented internet sources

#### Other specific examples of Academic dishonesty

1. Allowing another student to copy from your paper
2. Knowingly giving your homework, term paper or other academic work to another student to plagiarize
3. Having another student submit any work under your name
4. Lying to improve your grade

5. Stealing tests, assignments, or answer keys
6. Forging signatures on documentation
7. Collaborating without the permission of the teacher
8. Providing material or information to another person with the knowledge that such aid could be used in any of the violations stated above

**CONSEQUENCES:**

<b>Daily Grade</b>		<b>Major Grade</b>
<u>First infraction</u>	Zero(0) on assignment Two (2) hours D-Hall Notification of parent by teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero (0) on assignment</li> <li>• First infraction: Six (6) hours D-Hall</li> <li>• Repeat infractions: Minimum 3 day assignment to ISS</li> <li>• Opportunity for retake is forfeited</li> <li>• The zero may not be dropped and must factor into the term average</li> <li>• Must take final exam in that subject (Not allowed to exempt)</li> <li>• Additional infractions: Students loses ALL exam exemptions</li> <li>• Second infraction in same course: Weighted GPA is removed (Advanced Academics)</li> <li>• Findings of <b>academic dishonesty</b> reported on college application</li> <li>• Removed from National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society and any other Honor Society that is an organized school program.</li> </ul>
<u>Second infraction</u>	Zero(0) on assignment Referral to Assistant Principal Six (6) hours D-Hall Notification of parent by teacher and Assistant Principal	
<u>Repeat infractions</u>	Zero(0) on assignment Referral to Assistant Principal Three (3) day assignment to ISS Notification of parent by Assistant Principal Conference with student, parent, and teacher along with sponsors/coaches	

**Additional Examples of Academic Dishonesty**

1. Writing down answers to a test and giving them to someone in another class.
2. Working with a group on an individual assignment and copying down the exact same answers and turning them in.
3. On a research assignment, writing down a quote without proper citation.
4. On a research assignment, using someone else's idea without proper citation.
5. Talking about specific questions, terms, etc on a test before all classes have completed the test.
6. Taking pictures of a test with your cell phone.
7. Taking a test out of the room.
8. Writing answers from a test on another piece of paper, the desk, your hand, your shoe, your leg, etc.
9. Giving answers to homework via phone, text message, email, twitter, facebook, myspace, gmail chat, face to face, carrier pigeon, sign language.

<p>Students will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise academic honesty in all aspects of their work.</li> <li>• Prepare sufficiently for all types of assessments.</li> <li>• Seek extra help from teachers.</li> <li>• Avoid engaging in cheating, plagiarizing, and lying.</li> <li>• Use sources in the prescribed manner.</li> <li>• Report any violations of the Honor Code.</li> </ul>	<p>Parents will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the Honor Code with their child to ensure understanding.</li> <li>• Encourage their child to maintain high standards with regard to integrity, honesty, and personal responsibility.</li> <li>• Support faculty and administration in enforcing the Honor Code.</li> </ul>
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**Consequences:**

Dawson believes the measure of success of our school community is based on the success of our students, so the consequences below shall serve as a deterrent to a violation of the DHS Honor Code. As a result of clear and compelling evidence of student's cheating on major assessment grades, the following consequences will be enforced and violations of the DHS Honor Code will accumulate throughout a student's high school career.

**I have received a copy of the Glenda Dawson High School Honor Code during registration. I understand I will be held accountable for my behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Honor Code and the Glenda Dawson Student Code of Conduct as well as the above cheating/plagiarism policy. Initial: \_\_\_\_\_**

**By signing electronically, I understand the content of the syllabus, including the course overview, classroom policies/procedures, discipline plan, behavioral/academic expectations, and coursework expectations:**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing electronically, I understand that my child is responsible for knowing and following the content of the syllabus, including the course overview, classroom policies/procedures, discipline plan, academic/behavioral expectations, and coursework expectations:**

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE to parents and students:**

**Please know that we, as teachers, are dedicated to the success of all our students, first and foremost. This year will present its own unique set of challenges, changes, and unexpected surprises. We believe the best way to meet and overcome these challenges are through open communication and committed effort from students, teachers, and parents/guardians.**

## Makeup Work Policy\*

Page from DHS Student Handbook

Students have **one** class day per **excused** absence day to complete make-up assignments. If, for example, a student misses class on Monday and returns to school on Tuesday, his/her missed assignments from Monday are not due until Wednesday. Teachers may consider extenuating circumstances of individual students and allow more time to complete the assignment(s). Students who will be absent for 3 or more calendar days may request assignments through the counseling center. Students who fail to make up an assignment within these guidelines will receive a grade of zero (0) on the assignments.

Excused absences can be made up and credit for make-up work will be recorded. ***It is the student's responsibility to find out what assignments were missed during his/her absence. Students should not expect the teacher to seek out the student to remind them of missed work.***

- I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's PRINTED name), understand that when I am absent from school I have one class day per absence to complete any assignments I have missed.
- I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's PRINTED name), understand that it is MY RESPONSIBILITY to find out what assignments I have missed when I am absent from the classroom. This includes all of the following:

***Initial below for each:***

\_\_\_\_\_ Check the calendar board for a daily schedule of expected activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check with another student in class (this includes entering class 5 or more minutes late from class as well as missing a class entirely.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Check Skyward periodically.

- I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's PRINTED name), understand that if I fail to make up an assignment in the amount of days I was absent, I will receive a recorded grade of zero (0).
- I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's PRINTED name), understand that the teacher is not to seek me, the student, or any of my family members out to remind me of any missed assignment. I understand that it is my responsibility to seek out what I have missed in class during my absence. This includes all of the following:

***Initial below.***

\_\_\_\_\_ the teacher will not phone a student to let them know assignments missed.

\_\_\_\_\_ the teacher will not phone a parent to let them know their child missed an assignment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Telling my teacher that "you never told me" that an assignment, test, or project was to be completed or turned in.

\_\_\_\_\_ Telling my teacher "I never knew this assignment was given."

I have read over the Makeup Policy and understand the rules. Initialing and signing my name on each of the items listed above (and below) does not mean I agree with these rules; it simply means I understand them entirely and choose to stay in compliance during the duration of the school year.

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Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Today's Date

\* This policy will not apply until such time as the district deems every student has an accessible device with which to complete electronic assignments. Please do your best to complete any make-up/absent work in a timely manner in order to avoid a negative impact on your grade.

## Academic Viewing of Films

Throughout the school year, we will read various novels, poetry and prose selections of literature. It is possible we may have a viewing of a limited number of films/clips that are in relation to these reading selections. Please keep in mind this is in compliance with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading (TEKS). This is only a list of available movies to be shown during the school year. This form simply indicates a parent/guardian's permission for the student to view the film if we decide to use all or part in class.

- “*Great Expectations*” (a mini series) (NR) 2011
- “*Romeo and Juliet*” (PG) 1968
- “*Romeo and Juliet*” (PG13) 1996
- “*The Odyssey*” (only certain clips of this will be shown) (PG13) 1997
- *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (PG13) 2000

The purpose in viewing these above films will enrich the learning experience and reinforce what we will learn throughout the school year. Reading difficult literature for most students can be overwhelming and at times cumbersome. Sometimes viewing the films can help give a student the understanding and perspective of meaning, tone, atmosphere, irony, satire, comedy and other literary devices that writers employ. I truly hope you allow your child to enrich themselves further as we delve into the realms of history's fascinating adventure.

Sincerely,

Kaley Wagner/R. Michelle Ricks  
English I Pre-AP Team

\_\_\_\_ YES! My child \_\_\_\_\_ (Student Name) has my approval to view these films/videos.

\_\_\_\_ NO, I would rather my student \_\_\_\_\_ (Student's Name) not view the films/videos with his/her class and complete an alternative assignment instead.

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Parent/Guardian signature

Date

## CLASSROOM MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

### Supplies Needed for English I Pre-AP

For your safety, there will be no shared supplies this year; so please make sure you come to class with all that you may need to be successful. These are the supplies we strongly encourage you to have in order to maintain organization and optimize success in the course.

- ✓ A spiral or composition notebook for additional note-taking (optional)
- ✓ A folder to keep up with any handouts that may be hard copies and will be used multiple times throughout the year.
- ✓ Writing utensils – please note that ink pens should be **blue or black ink only**. Colors such as red, green, purple, etc. are not acceptable/professional for documents to be turned in. You may use these colors when taking personal notes.
- ✓ It is suggested, for sanitary purposes, that students have a few markers, highlighters, colored pens/pencils for assignments that require an artistic or creative element. I will supply some of these; however, it is always safer if a student uses their own.
- ✓ It is also recommended that you purchase your own novels listed in this syllabus – in some cases, digital copies may be available online; however, it will be the student’s responsibility to print if they wish to make written notes/annotations and mark passages for further study.

### Classroom Wish List:

**The following is a list of items that we would greatly appreciate as items donated to keep our classroom safe for all learners – they are not required. You may contribute to the classroom as a whole or bring your own to use individually. Again, this is for the benefit of students.**

- ✓ Hand sanitizer
  - ✓ Disinfectant Wipes
  - ✓ Pens/Pencils (please be aware these will not be returned to the teacher if used by a student)
  - ✓ Kleenex
  - ✓ Used (appropriate) books for students to read independently during quiet times such as after tests
-