

**Southwest Christian's Mission Statement:
To challenge students to grow in knowing, loving, and serving God and others.**

English 10 Syllabus

Course Description:

Welcome to the wonderful world of words! Our God is the master creator, the author of words, and it is our privilege to read, write, and speak as His image bearers. In this course, we will read novels, short stories, poems, and plays. We will also write in many forms and genres, building personal skills which will help us become better communicators.

Mrs. Tanya Talsma

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Instructional Philosophy

It is my hope that we will create a classroom where literature can be enjoyed and appreciated, where progress in writing skills will be celebrated, and where truth is spoken in love. Please join me in acknowledging both the beauty and the gift of written and spoken words.

Course Goals (Skills, Knowledge, and Value):

Together, we will explore rich worlds of literature, writing, and speaking. These worlds will introduce us to characters, cultures, and time periods of which we may not be familiar. They will help us explore the vastness of God's world. We will navigate class texts through the lens of scripture, searching for truth and discussing a biblical worldview as a response to the texts. We will gain skills in interpreting and analyzing literature by interacting with many genres.

It is our also our goal to work in community to increase our writing and speaking skills. We will continue to adjust our use of spoken, written, and visual language to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences for a variety of purposes. It is our privilege as God's children to reflect His creativity, to honor Him in both word and deed. We are a part of HIS story!

Materials Needed:

Notebook

Two colors of pens, pencils, highlighter(s)

3 ring binder with dividers

Assigned Reading (school owned and provided, except for individual novels/non-fiction choices)

Course Readings:

We will read literature that is cultural, historical and/or written by authors from a variety of geographical and ethnic backgrounds.

Essays, short stories, poetry and other forms of literature will also be read.

Writing Assignments:

We will write in a variety of formats, some of which will be creative, some responsive, and some analytical. Writing is a process. We will break the process into manageable steps, and I will keep a writing binder with samples of your writing to mark personal progress and achievement. Each type of writing will be explained in detail and rubrics given as they are assigned.

Other forms of assessment will include: worksheets, presentations, projects, quizzes, and tests.

Unit Outline/Schedule:

Semester One:	Semester Two:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Poetry/Memoir● <i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding/Thesis Project● <i>Divergent</i> by Veronica Roth/Responsive Writing● <i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell/Comparison Contrast Writing● Individual Novel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Holocaust Literature Book Circles: <i>Night</i> by Elie Wiesel and <i>Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak/Types of Essays/WWII Project● Shakespeare/Creative Writing● The Great Debate Project: Research Writing and Speaking● <i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card/Limited Literary Analysis● Individual Novel

Semester reading selections and assignments are subject to change based on the teacher's discretion.

Assignment/Assessment Policies:

All English skills and progress towards those skills will be assessed throughout the school year through daily discussions, class assignments, papers, journals, tests, projects, and speeches. These will help us determine growth and/or areas of needed improvement.

1. Assignments are due at the beginning of class and will be docked 5% per day late. All

students and parents who are interested will be given a missing assignment report via text or email. Please review the student handbook regarding missing work. Monday afternoon detentions will apply for all incompletes. I plan to record missing assignments at least 2 times/week.

2. There will be an English 10 binder in the classroom where you can find any handouts you are missing due to absence. I also plan to update you of the weeks' goals and assignments via Google Calendar/Schoology. Please chat with me and check the binder or the online communication if you are absent.

3. Students who have an excused school absence due to illness have two days to turn in their work.

4. Students who will knowingly be absent (athletics, appointments, vacations, etc.) must check with the teacher prior to absence for assigned tasks.

5. If given work prior to the absence, students have 24 hours to turn it in after their return. If the student has an unexcused absence, work is due upon his/her return.

6. There is zero tolerance for cheating. If you choose to cheat, the assignment must still be completed, but you will NOT receive credit for completion. A detention will also be assigned.

Grading Scale:

A 96-100	B+ 89-91	C+ 80-82	D+ 71-73	F 0-64
A- 92-95	B 88-86	C 77-89	D 68-70	
	B- 83-85	C- 74-76	D- 65-67	

Distribution of Grades Earned:

Tests/Projects/Papers: 40%

Assignments/Quizzes: 35%

Classroom Participation/Discussion: 15%

Exam: 10%

Help, Please!

If you ever feel overwhelmed or confused, please do not hesitate to ask questions. I will do my best to regularly check for your understanding, but I appreciate your feedback as well. We are all in this together, and I will gladly help you if you encounter problems or feel frustrated. Please do not allow yourself to become overly stressed because you do not understand something; ask questions. Please advocate for yourself in a respectful manner. Let's learn together! I will be available before school, most days by 7:45 am, and am willing to make appointments to meet you at other times as needed. You may email me via

ttalsma@swmch.org. I will try my best to answer email questions that are sent before 10:00pm.

Classroom Code of Conduct:

1. We will begin class when the tardy bell rings. You must be in your seat and ready for class when the tardy bell rings. Being ready for class means you have all of your assignments and supplies needed for the day. Failure to comply will result in a tardy.
2. Everyone in our classroom will be treated with respect. Please listen when either I or your classmates are speaking. While discussion and interaction will be facilitated and encouraged, appropriateness on all levels (subject matter, context, time, etc.) is expected. Disruptions and infractions will be followed with a verbal warning. Extreme (swearing, bullying, etc.) or repeated offenses will result in a detention.
3. We will take care of any possessions within our classroom and of those given to us for our use. Any property damaged will be replaced at cost by the offender.
4. We will adhere to the school's student handbook concerning other policies, including cell phones and dress code. In the English classroom, you will be expected to drop your cell phone in the basket at the front of the room while entering the class.
5. Computers will be welcomed and frequently used; however, each student is expected to practice self discipline while using his/her computer. Using social media and/or browsing the web instead of completing the given classroom task will result in a warning followed by the loss of computer for a week in the English classroom. If a student's classroom computer privileges are revoked, the student will need to complete computer related assignments on his/her own time outside of the class period.

