

# English II Course Syllabus

2024-2025 School Year

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## Email

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## Classroom

L206



## Introduction & Course Overview

Hello and welcome to English II! I am excited to be a part of your sophomore year at Travis High School. I expect that we will have a productive year of teaching and learning from one another. In this course, students will use critical thinking skills to analyze, discuss, and connect literary texts across a variety of genres. Students will engage with various texts through discourse, written responses, and practice grammar and writing mechanics. Perfection is not expected in this course, and you should never feel pressured to achieve it. However, I do expect you to put forth your best effort every day. By doing so, you will grow and become more prepared for the next year and your future.

## Course Information

### Class Schedule & Tutorial Times

#### Class Schedule

ELA II for all class periods

Conference Time: 6<sup>th</sup> Period 1:07 - 1:55 p.m.

#### Tutorial Times:

Students are welcome to join any of the following ELA tutorial sessions:

**Acosta:** Mondays 2:50 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., 6:45 a.m. - 7:20 a.m. Room L214

**Benefiel:** Mondays and Tuesdays, 2:50 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Room L234

**Gomez:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:40 a.m. - 7:20 a.m., Room L210

**Hartley:** Tuesdays and Fridays 2:50 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Room L206

**Metcalf:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:45 a.m. - 7:20 a.m., Room L235

\*Please adhere to posted schedule - teacher presence does not imply availability. Do not enter the teacher's room for help outside the schedule without prior consent and invitation. Special circumstances must apply. Extra-curricular activities are not special circumstances. Last minute attendance risks that students will not get help. Sign up in advance. If help is needed, attend teacher tutorials regularly and well in advance of deadlines.

## Classroom Expectations

- Come to class PREPARED and READY to learn.
- RESPECT yourself, others, and our environment.
- **Participate** and keep an open mind.
- We will create and maintain a safe, positive, and welcoming learning environment.
- You will take responsibility for your decisions and actions.

## Required Materials

Please acquire these supplies by **Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**.

- 1 college-ruled spiral or composition notebook (IMPORTANT!)
- #2 or mechanical pencil(s)
- 2 black or blue pens and 2 red pens
- 4 different color highlighters
- District assigned laptop (personal devices will not be permitted for use in class at any time)
- OPTIONAL: If possible PLEASE send boxes of tissues and hand sanitizer

## Exposure to a Variety of Texts & Independent Reading

### Variety of Texts

We will read, watch, and discuss a variety of texts in our class this year to encourage students to consider differing viewpoints as well as a variety of cultures and beliefs. These skills are mandatory skills assigned by the State of Texas through its Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS). As a class, we want students to form their own thoughts and opinions to be shared regarding these texts.

Some of the topics we discuss could be considered controversial. In some cases, students may be exposed to ideas that are contrary their own beliefs. The goal of this exposure is to teach students how to communicate in a constructive dialogue using concrete details, various argumentative strategies, and facts, not to change anyone's personal beliefs; This is all a part of our efforts to help create constructive discourse. We will teach students how to analyze and create individual arguments while exposing them to a variety of ideas from various perspectives that will help them learn and understand different viewpoints.

It is the student's responsibility to inform their teacher of any issues, ideas, or language that makes them uncomfortable to help us create a safe and trusting classroom environment.

### Independent Reading

Throughout this course, students will participate in self-selected independent reading. The selected text should be at the appropriate reading level and book-length. Students have freedom to choose any text; As educators, we will only assign novels from FBISD approved list.

**Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring their student's independent reading choices.**

## Technology Use

The use of technology will be very prevalent throughout this course. Students will be expected to complete a variety of activities on digital platforms such as Schoology, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Kahoot, Canva, etc. To complete online coursework, students must use their district assigned laptop. Technology use is restricted to class activities ONLY to prevent additional distractions in the classroom.

## Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism

Our classroom has a zero-tolerance space for cheating and plagiarism. Any submitted work that is not your own will receive a zero as well as warrant parent contact and an office referral. This includes the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT and plagiarism of another's work. Please see the student handbook for the formal definition(s) of cheating.

## Grades, Extra Credit, & Late Work Policy

### Grades

Grades will be determined by various assessments, journals, quizzes, essays, homework, and class participation. Assignments will be graded and entered in the gradebook in a timely manner according to their weight. Please allow the following time frames for the following grades:

- Daily Grades = 5 business days
- Written Assignments = 10 business days

Grades will be weighted **50% Daily / 50% Major**.

### Extra Credit

Extra credit points will be offered in the form of passes earned with Tiger Pride Points. By accruing Tiger Pride Points, students will be able to purchase extra credit passes; These passes are limited to use in one class for one grade each term. Students are welcome to use this pass for 5 extra points where it would best benefit the student.

### Late Work Policy

Due dates for assignments will be provided at the time they are assigned. Students are expected to complete work in a timely manner and communicate with the teacher if they are unable to meet the given deadline. Points will be deducted from the assignment grade for each day it is late. Late work deductions are as follows: **1 day late = -10 points, 2 days late = -20 points, 3 days late = -30 points, 4 days late = -50 points, 5 days late = 0 in gradebook**

If you know you will be absent, it is your job to communicate this with the teacher to ensure that no false points are deducted. If you are absent on the day of a test, you will need to take a make-up test when you are next present.

## Retests & Essay Revisions

### Retests

If a student makes **below a 75** on a major grade test, they have the option of taking a retest. The student will be given **one week to attend a REQUIRED tutorial session and take the retest**. The student must come to the tutorial session prepared with questions. If a student fails to attend the tutorial, they will not be able to take the retest. **The highest grade possible for a retest is a 75.**

### Essay Revisions

If a student receives **below a 75** on an essay, they may come to a tutorial session to ask about teacher notes and revise their work. **Required tutorial attendance and proper revisions** will give the student the opportunity to receive **up to a 75** on their work.

## Email Communication Expectations (Parents/Guardians AND Students)

- Teacher response will occur during office hours (7am-3pm) in 1-2 school days, depending on volume. Ex. Friday night email will be answered by Tuesday afternoon. Do not expect last minute help or question answering via email.
- Students cannot assume a solution to their problem is created by simply sending an email. Standards for performance always apply and direct communication is absolutely necessary.
- Do not submit work via email. Teachers do not grade from email, so time stamps of draft work are irrelevant. Submission to appropriate area in Schoology is required for full/late credit. Very few exceptions are made with AAC team approval.
- Do not request feedback via email, most especially the day of a deadline. Feedback and tutoring are provided in-person during tutorials.

### QR Code Signature

Once you and your parents/guardians have thoroughly read the syllabus, please scan the QR code below and complete the Microsoft Form acknowledging that you understand the expectations and policies of our classroom.

ELA II Syllabus Signature  
Form 2024-2025

