

English

Instructor - Mr. Ward

School Year – 2026 - 2027

School – 308-324-4691

tom.ward@lexschools.org

Text message: Use TalkingPoints

Goals - For students to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of reading, writing, and speaking as a means to communicate thoughts and ideas effectively.

For students to be able to determine and create intended messages by reading and listening for comprehension and writing to express and clarify.

Objective - Students will read a variety of poems, short stories and novels, write comparatively, informatively, technically, creatively, and conduct forms of research.

Content - The class will read from anthologies and novels, plus examine other art forms, to investigate form, meaning, and interpretation - in other words, to see how artists and authors communicate their meaning. From these, papers will be written to express ideas and to investigate different areas of style, form, and content. Class discussions will accompany each activity and writing steps will be practiced and implemented.

Grading – Grades will be given for minor and major assessments of grammar, vocabulary, literature, and writing. Semester Tests will account for 10% of each semester grade. Each quarter will represent 45% of the semester grade.

(Quarter 1 (45%) + Quarter 2 (45%) + Semester Final (10%) = Semester 1 Grade)

(Quarter 3 (45%) + Quarter 4 (45%) + Semester Final (10%) = Semester 2 Grade)

Grades are divided into two categories – Minor and Major Assessments.

Minor Assessments (50%) will be the quizzes, homework, and small assignments given to prepare for Major Assessments

Major Assessments (50%) will be formal papers, extended projects, and tests over units of material and novels.

LATE-WORK DEADLINE - When a student is absent, it is up to the student to find out what work needs to be made up and arrange to complete the work. A zero (0) grade will be put in for the assignment until it is made up.

FOR AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: Students have two days within which to turn in the work (there is an extra day for each additional day absent – Ex 1 day absent = 2 makeup days; 2 days absent = 3 makeup days). Check the Student Handbook.

FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE (School activities, etc.): Work will be required to be turned in by the due date, which may mean turning work in early. Missed quizzes and tests are to be taken on the day you return, either during second period or after school. Major projects can be turned in the day you return. Vocabulary stories are always due by the due date.

Times to make up quizzes and tests:

- after school
- before school by appointment
- Tuesday through Friday during second hour.

Major assignments will have a fixed due date given at the time it is assigned. If work is not completed on the due date, you can turn it in the next day for 75% of the grade; after that you will get 50% of the grade.

Late minor assignments may receive partial or no credit depending on the tardiness of the assignment and reason for the tardiness.

Overview of Assignment Expectation

Extensions on an assignment will be considered on an individual basis. The main consideration is the amount of work already invested towards the project.

- Homework is typically due the next school day unless otherwise stated.
- Classwork is due at the end of the period unless otherwise indicated.
- Teacher may give unannounced quizzes at any time.
- Tests will be in a variety of forms: multiple choice, short answer, essay, etc.
- Projects will need to be completed in their entirety before being turned in. Incomplete projects will not be accepted.
- All papers/ assignments will be headed with the student's name, date, and assignment.
 - Example:
 Joe Student
 12 Aug 2024
 Period 1
 Name of Assignment
- Typed papers will follow MLA format, be in 12-point, double spaced, and one-inch margins, (some may require a cover page).
- Students will work to understand the stories
- Study Vocabulary daily
- Keep up with all assignments (reading, NRI, Vocabulary, etc)
- Use the writing process for writing

Materials - Students are to be prepared for class with paper, pen or pencil, any class book assigned, and their school issued iPad. Student owned iPads or computers are not allowed. It is recommended that a binder be used to keep material in. Each student is responsible for the organization of any notes and handouts the teacher has provided and is responsible for the content.

*Parents will be notified when students are failing or near failing.

*It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with the work and turn in assignments on time. Problems with being able to finish on time should be brought to the attention of the teacher before the deadline.

Expectations:

Come to class with the right materials for that class.

Be in your seat when the tardy bell rings. If you have an assigned seat, that should be the one.

Raise your hand if you need to leave your desk to sharpen a pencil or other need. Return directly to your chair. Don't attract attention to yourself.

Your feet should be on the floor, not on the furniture, and your hands should be kept to yourself.

No locker passes.

Be courteous and respectful to others and their opinions.

Don't talk when someone else is talking - wait your turn.

Assignments and class agenda will be posted online through Google Classroom.

*At times, I may respond to a behavior in class as a whole to discuss, or to call attention to, the exhibited behavior of an individual(s). I do this to allow the student(s) the opportunity to regulate him or herself and hopefully they will modify their behavior. The intent is to avoid a confrontation and prevent escalating a situation and further disrupting the classroom routine.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Misrepresentation through AI – Don't do it. A major assignment that is plagiarized will be given a zero. However, the student can redo the assignment with a new assigned topic and due date, on their own time, to receive 70% of the earned grade. (Plagiarism is using someone else's work as your own). Cheating on a test, quiz, or assignment results in a zero with no make-up. This includes AI infractions.

The teacher has the expectation that each student is able to do the work assigned to them. Students are accountable for all assignments based on the expectation that they have prepared themselves. It should be understood that this will take work by the student. The teacher can teach and review, but learning and applying the material is up to the student. If a student needs extra help, they should seek it from the teacher before due dates or test times.

Online Behavior and Expectation

If we end up conducting school online, there are some expectations I have for students.

- We will use the Zoom app for online instruction and Google Classroom for sharing materials and assignments. We will follow the school's outline for online instruction.
- When students are on Zoom, the expectation is that the student will be in a room free of distraction and background noise.
- The student is to be visible in the camera during the time of instruction. Avatars and pictures will not be allowed.
- Students will be expected to follow the assignment schedule to receive credit.
- Attendance is mandatory to the Zoom meetings. Not attending will result in an absence. If at any time you don't respond to your name being called, have fallen asleep, appear to not be in the meeting, or in any way appear to be disengaged from the online class, you will be marked absent.
- Appropriate dress and manners will also be expected.

Remote Learning

Some students may be put on remote learning.

- Students will email the teacher to inform of being on remote learning.
- Students will also keep track with the weekly agenda on Google Classroom of assignments as well as assignments posted on Google Classroom.
- It is up to the student to make sure they are keeping up with the work. If students don't understand what they should do, they should contact the teacher to clarify what they are supposed to be doing. As an example, if a student on remote learning returns to school on the day of a quiz, test, assignment etc, they will be required to take that assessment the day they return because they should have been keeping up with the work and assignments.
- Vocabulary can be studied on Quizlet. Students are expected to complete NoRedInk assignments on their own and be prepared for quizzes.
- Assessments will be scheduled and administered based on individual circumstances.

General Submission Information:

- Students should submit assignments through Google Classroom unless otherwise directed.
- Be aware that any submitted work may be checked for AI use or plagiarism and be subject to penalty.
- Unreadable files will receive a '0' grade.

PROGRAMS:

GRAMMAR – we will use NoRedInk.com to study grammar.

- Students will be assigned a lesson or quiz on NoRedInk every day
- Students should FINISH the lesson each day. This can happen because the program is online and can be accessed on any electronic device, including smart phones.
- If you are absent for a NoRedInk quiz, make arrangements to make it up.
- Follow the Late-Work Deadline schedule already posted in this syllabus.
- During each quiz, I will take a screenshot of each student's progress so I know who has completed the work. This will also translate into a grade for lesson completion leading to the quiz.
- If you want to improve the grade of a quiz, you are to send me an email requesting an URRT for that quiz. I only respond to emails with this. If you verbally ask, I will verbally respond that you need to send me an email. Your email should be something like "Mr. Ward, can I have an URRT for (name of quiz)?" I will reply telling you it is ready, or that you don't get one because you didn't do all the lessons, so you didn't qualify.

- An URRT isn't only for if you failed the quiz – if you want to improve from missing only one question to a perfect score, that is also encouraged. You can request an URRT at any time during a quarter for any quiz or test taken within that quarter.
- You can have up to two (2) URRTs for each quiz or test.

VOCABULARY - Quizlet will be used for individual vocabulary study.

- Grade
 - Your Vocabulary grade will be based on the result of two (2) assignments:
 - Original story – submitted online (10 points)
 - Vocabulary Quiz (25-35 points)
 - Combined for a grade of 35-45 points
- Each unit of vocabulary will be about 10 school days. Deadlines for the story and quiz will be posted. Stories are to be turned in online.
 - Stories are due by the end of the school day, 4 pm, on the due date posted.
 - Stories will not be accepted after the quiz has been taken.
 - Being absent on the deadline doesn't excuse you from this. It is expected that you will turn in the work by the deadline. It is encouraged to turn in the work early and not procrastinate to the due date.
 - If you are to be gone for a school activity that occurs on the deadline, you are to turn in the assignments before you leave.
 - There will be bonus points for stories turned in before the due date and penalty point for stories turned in after the deadline.
- Stories – Stories are original works using at least five (5) of the vocab terms to write a story.
 - This is not a list of random sentences. This is a story with a beginning and an end.
 - Your story will be graded on:
 - whether the terms are used correctly, both as part of speech and its proper usage (5 points).
 - CUPS (capitalization, usage, punctuation, spelling) (5 points). (This is to encourage good writing skills.)
 - It is my recommendation that you use six (6) terms for your story in case you use one of the terms incorrectly.
 - Stories don't have to be real or about you – they can be made-up, even made-up stories about you.
 - The stories need only be long enough to use the terms and finish the story.
 - Extra credit will occur when:
 - Everyone in the class turns in their original story, thus everyone gets an extra point
 - a student uses all the unit terms correctly in their story (3 extra credit points).
 - There is also an opportunity for extra credit during Quizlet review.
- Quizzes – Quizzes will be fill in the blank and occasionally sentence writing or other assessment. You will have the terms, parts of speech, and definitions on the quiz.
 - Each blank will be worth two (2) points: correct term and correct part of speech
 - If the term is wrong, but if the term you enter is the right part of speech for the blank, 1 point off
 - If the term is wrong and the term you put in is not a term of the correct part of speech, 2 points off

WRITING – students will be expected to use the writing process.

(The Writing Process: Plan, Organize, Draft, Edit, Proofread, Publish)

- Remember, all submitted work may be submitted through a program to detect AI or plagiarism.
- Writing will be submitted on Google Classroom and printed out using MLA format
- A workspace for each writing assignment will be created on Google Classroom for students to “show” their work. This workspace will be used when grading for being “on track.”

READING – We use StudySync (access through Clever) for the majority of the reading assignments

- Our reading resource is StudySync from McGraw Hill
- This offers our reading material, except for novels
- Students will be assigned a reading (short story, poem, etc)
- On the day the reading is due, there will be a reading quiz
 - This quiz is to grade on if you read the assignment
- Next, there will be discussion over the story to review comprehension
- A follow-up assessment will be given next to measure comprehension.
 - These could be a follow-up quiz, project, or writing assignment

Log in information for iPad Apps

Google Homeroom: **uhf6n5pc**
Classroom: 3rd – English 1: **qmq2imoq**
4th - Comm Tech: **3f72g37i**
6th - English 1: **h2jnyeiy**
7th - English 2: **6hxy3qew**
8th - English 2: **zzcmjknb**

NoRedInk: Will be accessed through Google Classroom

Quizlet: Use the link on Google Classroom

StudySync: (access through Clever)
Login – **firstnamestudent#** (Joe13798)
Password – **school password**