**English Language Arts- Grade 11**

**Syllabus 2023-2024**

**Mr. Demers, Room 204**

**kdemers@winthrop.k12.ma.us**

**Course Description**

English/Language Arts courses build upon students’ prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary,

word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and usually include the four aspects of language use:

reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Typically, these courses introduce and define various

genres of literature, with writing exercises often linked to reading selections. Specifically, the

curriculum provides instruction in the different modes of written and oral expression, analytical

reading, and media study. We will be working with a variety of texts including novels, poems,

short stories, art, film, non-fiction articles, and more.

**Required Core Texts:**

* **The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger**
* **The Underground Rail Road – Colson Whitehead**
* **Mexican Gothic – Sylvia Moreno-Garcia**
* **Hamlet – William Shakespeare**

The core texts will be provided electronically. However, hard copies may be available for those who prefer, and as always, it is encouraged that students purchase their own copy for optimal annotating.

These core texts will be supplemented by a number of other materials, in order to strengthen

understanding and to help us make connections. Be prepared to do plenty of reading on your

own outside of class.

**Policies and Student Expectations:**

In my classroom, you are expected:

* To have an open mind and be creative!
* To be on time and be prepared to work when the bell rings
* To always come to class prepared with binder, paper, pens/pencils, appropriate textbooks,

completed assignments, and any other materials that you are instructed to bring

* To follow all directions given by the teacher or included on an assignment;
* To meet all deadlines (Assignments are due at the beginning of each class on the due date);
* To be academically honest (plagiarizing and cheating will NOT be tolerated **this includes all forms of AI**)
* To respect other students and the teacher by being attentive when others are speaking,

raising your hand to speak, and not being disruptive;

* To be courteous to others by respecting their personal space;
* To actively participate in group discussions and activities;
* Do not infringe on anyone else’s right to learn
* To follow ALL school rules as described in the Student Handbook;

**Technology:**

We are lucky to live in an era when technology is abundant and can be used to help us explore

the world around us both in and out of school. However, being part of this technological age

means understanding how to use it appropriately and responsibly:

* Chromebooks must be charged and ready to use before class.
* As per the Student Handbook, you are required to use your WHS assigned Chromebook in my classroom at all times. **NO OTHER DEVICES MAY BE USED!**
* Cell phones **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED DURING CLASSTIME**. Any cell phone seen during class

will result in a verbal warning. A second occurrence will result in a 20 minute teacher session after school. Failure to comply will result in a referral for Administrative Detention.

* Do not ask me to charge your cell phone in my class

**Consequences for failing to meet classroom expectations are:**

• 1st Offense: Verbal Warning

• 2nd Offense: Parent contact/After-School Detention/ Point Deduction

• 3rd Offense: Sent to Principal/VP

**Late Work and Tardiness**

All assignments should be completed on time for full credit. **I will not be accepting late work**. Most of your homework in this class will consist of independent reading assignments (see below), however, occasionally, there will be written assignments which must be completed on time to receive credit.

All assignments will be submitted through the event created on my Google Classroom – unless otherwise stated. If there is an extenuating circumstance you must email me. I am always willing to work with my students, but it is their responsibility to contact me prior to the due date (i.e. not during my class time), not after the fact.

Being on time is not only polite, but it is essential to getting a good grade in this class**. If you are not in my classroom by the beginning bell, you will not be allowed in until you procure a pass either from your previous instructor or the office.**

**All assignments will be due at the beginning of the school day. Assignments time stamped after 7:35 AM will be considered late.** My class time is for instruction, not for you to make last minute adjustments to you work, nor to upload it to my Google Classroom.

If you are going to be late to class, you must have a pass signed by a teacher or staff member.

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned almost every day and should be completed by the beginning of school on the day it is due (see above). In order to provide for a robust examination and discussion of our core works in class, it is imperative that students are familiar with the material. **Therefore, independent reading and annotating will comprise the majority of your homework assignments.** As this is not a concrete assignment – in other words, there is nothing to turn in – be prepared for daily reading quizzes also known as DIRT quizzes (Did I Read This?) on the material. These usually comprise of three basic comprehension questions relating to the material – the assessment equivalent of “what’s the color of orange juice?”. These will be based on 3 points, one for each question, and will be graded in class. These assessments will be administered DAILY, though not every one will be recorded in iPass – this will be at my discretion. If you happen to be absent for a DIRT Quiz, you will be exempt from the assignment. However, after 3 absences, you will need to make up any further quizzes after school within 2 days.

**Extra Help:**

I am available after school every day, unless called away for a school related meeting. Extra

help hours will be taking place after school from 2:00-2:30 PM. I want to be here for all of my

students and I know that some people have obligations in the afternoons, so with an

appointment, I would be happy to meet with anyone before school. Students are encouraged

to stay for extra assistance on any assignment he or she is struggling with. This is also the time

to discuss returned work, grades, or any other issues that may arise. Any parent or guardian

who would like to meet, please email/call ahead to schedule a time.

**Grading**

* Tier One (Tests/Papers/Projects): 40%
* Tier Two (Quizzes/Writing Assignments): 30%
* Tier Three (Homework/DIRT/Classwork): 20%
* Weekly Participation: 10%

I try to return graded work back as soon as possible with comments when necessary. Work, per school policy, will be returned within two weeks.

Your grades will be returned through Google Classroom, and updated on iPass, and can be accessed there.

It is my goal to see each and everyone of my students succeed and I will work with anyone who is struggling to achieve this success. I encourage my students to reach out to me with any problems **as soon as possible** to allow me to work with them to put together a viable path to achievement. The earlier a problem is addressed, the better the outcome. Waiting to the last week of the quarter to reach out to me is probably not the best course of action. Take ownership and agency over your academic progress, not only in my class, but all of your classes here at Winthrop High School!

**WHS PLAGARISM POLICY**

PLAGIARISM

Any student who cheats/plagiarizes on an examination, or any other assignment, shall receive a zero, and may not make-up such work. The instructor, who will then notify the parent/guardian, will privately admonish the student.

**Vision of the Graduate**

Winthrop High School strives to ensure its graduates are able to become productive citizens of their town, their state, and their nation. To do this, the school in 2011 embraced the following learning objectives, on which students are evaluated quarterly. Taken together, they express a community vision for what we want our graduates to be, know, and do.

WHS Students will become…

***Critical Thinkers***

·      They will use, apply, and evaluate multiple problem-solving strategies in a variety of

                disciplines.

·      They will be able to select, organize, and evaluate new ideas.

·      They will demonstrate the ability to actively and critically read.

·      They will develop the skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to prepare them for college and career success

·      They will be able to set priorities, and manage their time and tasks.

***Effective Communicators***

·      They will communicate ideas and information with clarity and with an understanding

     of their audience.

·      They will integrate and use a variety of communication forms.

·      They will listen effectively and respond appropriately to spoken communication.

·      They will master standard English-language conventions.

***Conscientious Citizens***

·      They will be aware of, and follow, their community’s rules and laws

·      They will respect themselves and the community at large.

·      They will be aware of and respect social and cultural diversity.

·      They will understand, promote, and show the importance of hard work to achieve

      success.

·      They will own their mistakes, and will learn from them.

***Creative Achievers***

·      They will show curiosity and enthusiasm in everything they do.

·      They will work and think originally.

·      They will appreciate the arts in their many forms.

·      They will select, organize, and develop innovative ideas.

·      They will build off the ideas of others.