

Cosby High School

English II

Room 47

Instructor: Maddy Dawson

2025-2026

Syllabus

Contact Information:

Instructor: Ms. Maddy Dawson

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Room: 47

Required Class Materials:

Notebook/Binder

Paper

Pencil

Chromebook

Online Resources:

- **StudySync:** This website is where we will find our class textbook. It will be used frequently inside the classroom. Students will also be provided a hard copy of the StudySync textbook.
- **Mastery Connect:** We will use this site to take practice quizzes and our Benchmark exam. This site is designed to present EOC-style questions to students.

Course Information

This semester, we will explore several texts, cultures, and time periods through literary engagement. We will also focus heavily on MLA format, academic writing, and EOC/ACT preparation. While I hope this class will be discussion heavy, we will also utilize various instructional methods including lecture, independent learning activities, collaborative group activities, and creative projects

Tennessee English Language Arts Standards:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/2019-sbe-meetings/february-8,-2019-sbe-meeting/2-8-19%20IV%20C%20English%20Language%20Arts%20Standards%20Attachment%20C1ean%20Copy.pdf>

Course Rules and Expectations

The number one rule within our classroom is mutual respect. I am careful to respect everyone of my students, and students are expected to respect one another and to respect me as well. If aspects such as cell phones use, language, or class participation become an issue, I reserve the right to contact parents, assign punishment, or adjunct class grades as is appropriate.

I pride myself on creating a comfortable classroom environment where trust and communication are present. Please feel free to come discuss any issues or concerns you may be having with me at any time.

Course Schedule/Outline*

(*This course schedule is tentative and may be subject to change. I will update the material in this document as the course progresses.)

Important Dates:

- **Midterm Exams: December 18 & 19**
- **EOCs: April 13-May 5**
- **Final Exams: May 15 & 18**

An Introduction to English II

Guiding Question: What does my relationship to reading and writing look like?

Unit One

Unit Question: What does it truly mean to win?

Main Text:

- *The Great Gatsby*

Excerpts & Shorter Works:

- "These Wild Young People"
- *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*
- "Every Day"
- "The Marshall Plan Speech"
- "A Rose for Emily"
- *Paper Towns*
- *Oedipus Rex*

Unit Two

Unit Question: How does independence define the American spirit?

Main Text:

- *Of Mice and Men*

Excerpts & Shorter Works:

- “The Story of an Hour”
- “Life After High School”
- Constitution of Iroquois Nations & The Declaration of Independence
- Excerpts from *The Scarlet Letter*

Unit Three

Unit Question: How can we attain justice for all?

Main Text:

- *Twelve Angry Men*

Excerpts & Shorter Works:

- Excerpt from *Julius Ceasar*
- “Claudette Colvin”
- “Hotel Rwanda”
- Excerpt from *Antigone*

Unit Four

Unit Question: How does culture influence your goals?

Main Text:

- *Night*

Excerpts & Shorter Works:

- *Maus* (Graphic Novel)
- “The Power of the Hero’s Journey”
- “The Gathering Place”
- “Ramayana”

Grading Policy

Participation:

Weekly participation grades will include all activities students complete in class. This could qualify as independent worksheets, group assignments, creative activities, or extended written responses.

Tests:

Students will complete a test at the end of each unit. There will be four unit tests.

Class Project:

Each class will complete a week-long multimedia project. Students will have some freedom in choosing their medium and topic as long as it relates to the material we have covered during the final unit.

Students who have three or less absences in my class will be exempt from the final exam. Students are also allotted two missed class periods for field trips, and class missed for school sports or club competitions will not count against them.

EOC Exam:

Each class will complete an EOC exam covering state ELA standards. It will cover/combine all material learned throughout the year and will compromise 15% of students' final letter grade.

Grade Breakdown:

- **Unit Tests 35%**
- **Weekly Participation/Assignments 40%**
- **Class Project 10%**
- **EOC Exam 15%**

Plagiarism Policy:

According to the Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition: Plagiarism is defined as “presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinions as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased.” This includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work
- Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source
- Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source
- Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.

Consequences of plagiarism include:

- Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accept a letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents are to be involved in making the decision.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Students may use AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or QuillBot) for brainstorming, drafting assistance, grammar checks, and idea development. **However, all submitted work must reflect the student’s own understanding, voice, and critical thinking.**

Guidelines for AI Use:

- Generating ideas, outlines, and topic suggestions
- Grammar and spelling assistance

- Style and clarity suggestions
- Research guidance (must verify sources)

□ **Not Allowed:**

- Submitting AI-generated essays, analyses, or responses as original work
- Using AI to bypass reading assignments or critical thinking tasks
- Copying AI-generated content without revision or personal input

Academic Integrity:

Any work that relies excessively on AI without meaningful student engagement may be considered plagiarism. If unsure, students should consult the instructor before using AI.

AI should be a tool for learning, not a substitute for effort. Use it responsibly to enhance—not replace—your writing skills.

Religion in the Classroom:

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion - and not of religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Religious themes may be a part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The inclusion of religion shall be for educational purposes only;¹
3. The emphasis on religious themes should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of the curriculum. Such studies shall never be used to proselytize, establish, foster, or demean any particular religion, religious tenets, or beliefs; and¹
4. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated.