

English I
Burlington County Institute of Technology--Medford
2021-2022

--syllabus subject to some modification--

Course Description:

Welcome to English I! Together, we will build an intellectual community of learners, readers, writers, and scholars (with myself included). It's incredibly important to build trust and rapport with one another, and thus, strive to be open-minded, accepting of differences, and determined to succeed. We aim to cover a wide range of texts, genres of writing, and have thoughtful discussions over the course of this semester through blended forms of multimedia learning. In order to accomplish this, we must be willing to explore new perspectives of the world around us (ever-changing, as it is) and experiment (and thrive) with new ways of learning. Units are described below, along with the "fifth" ongoing vocabulary unit. Each unit will take approximately 4-5 weeks to complete. A link to BCIT's curriculum page is linked below, as well.

Teacher Contact Information:

Meredith Megee

B.A. English

CEAS Secondary Education

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Grading

- Classwork/Homework.....10%
- Class Participation.....15%
- Tests.....25%
- Quizzes.....25%
- Final.....25%

LATE WORK POLICY

- 30% off grade for 1 day late
- 40% off grade for 2 days late
- 50% off grade for 3 days late

(Some) Course Objectives

- Use reading strategies to construct meaning from a variety of texts
- Develop a deeper understanding through textual evaluation
- Recognizing literary features to help with appreciation
- Writing is a multi-stage process
- Writers have multiple purposes for writing

- **Star360**/Linkit/CommonLit Preassessment

Curriculum & Units

<https://www.bcit.cc/Page/6522>

(order of units not necessarily implied)

- Unit 1: “Coming of Age”
 - What delineates the moment when a child becomes an adult?
 - What does it mean to ‘come of age’?
 - How do our childhood experiences influence the adult we become?
 - How do previous choices determine our individual pathways to adulthood?
- Unit 2: “Alienation and Struggle for Equality”
 - What are inalienable rights?
 - What prohibits equal rights for all?
 - In what ways do choices affect our lives?
 - What does it mean to be alienated in society?
- Unit 3: “Fate vs. Free Will” & Good vs. Evil
 - In what ways do choices affect our lives?
 - Can fate be defied?
 - In a culture where we are bombarded with ideas and images of “what we should be,” how does one form an identity that remains true and authentic for himself?
 - In the face of adversity, what causes some to prevail and some to fail?
 - What is the definition of a hero?
 - How do the attributes of a hero change over time?
 - Is there good and evil in everyone?
 - Are people essentially good?
 - What causes a society’s perception of good and evil to change?
- (Unit 4: Vocab--45 minutes p/wk on “Membean”)

Instructional Methods

Reading:

- Short Stories
- Novels
- Poetry
- Nonfiction Articles/Articles of the Week(?)

Writing:

- Emails (formal)
- Discussion Posts
- Letters
- Narratives

- Argumentative pieces
- Explanatory pieces
- Comparison pieces (authors purpose and literary analysis)
- Literary analysis (with various lenses)

Other:

- Discussion is at the heart of every English class. Even with the obstacles of distance-learning, discussion leads to building classroom communities
- Membean--45 Minutes of Vocabulary a Week
- Independent Reading Books (IRBs)???
- Weekly Journaling w/ Check-Ins

Academic Expectations

- Turn in all work on time! Don't rely on extra credit. I may or may not give enrichment every now and then.
- The pace of this course is rigorous (see Kyleene Beers' definition of 'rigor'), yet the scope is broad. You'll get a lot out of this course!
 - "The essence of rigor is engagement and commitment. A classroom that respects what the students bring to it, what they are capable of, and interested in, and that welcomes them into an active intellectual community is more likely to achieve that rigor." --From Notice and Note, by Kyleene Beers and Bob Probst.
- Keep up with reading, researching, studying, and responding. All of these are key! But so is communication. REACH OUT to me when you need to, don't be shy. I can't help you if I don't know what's going on. Also, make use of your resources (your peers and myself, especially).
- Be present. Regular attendance is important.
- Be *present* (mentally!).
- Cell phones can be used for class purposes, but please steer clear of distractions. This is an exercise in honesty.
- Embrace Academic Honesty. Please understand that whether it is on a project, assignment, essay, quiz, test, paper, or presentation, all students are expected to submit their own work. Copying, or even using the work of peers to rephrase one's own answers, is considered plagiarism. Students are likewise responsible for properly citing sources in MLA format, even when they are paraphrased. This is very important. **Plagiarism is considered a cheating offense**, and it is against BCIT's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to submit their own work. Students have nothing to gain through cheating, and everything--grades, college recommendations, and teacher trust--to lose.
- Read, reread, and read yet again.
- Go above and beyond. This expectation is demonstrated through student commitment to an ongoing, thorough reading and investigative research, as well as a willingness to seek help when necessary.

- Bullying is not tolerated. Ever. Be respectful, kind, and supportive of your peers.

Other Expectations

***Come to class with your computers charged, and with your charger!

***Bathrooms = 1 student allowed out at a time. Leave cell phone by the whiteboard, or no admittance.

***Trips elsewhere i.e. nurse (unless otherwise called down) = I will need to call down ahead of time in case there is a queue of students. Wait times may be an issue.

***Masks on at all times, over your mouth and over your nose, unless taking a drink of water.

***Be mindful of your surroundings and social distance. When moving around the classroom, be aware of your peers' space. Especially during group work.

***When remote, please refrain from using your cell phones/doing other work in other tabs.

***If online, your mic is to be muted (especially when another peer is talking), camera ON your face. Communicate via turning the mic on and talking, meets chat, or goguardian. Make sure to work in a quiet and distraction-free setting (with headphones, if possible).

***Log into the Meet EARLY and ON TIME (if applicable)