

# English II Syllabus

2023-2024

## Instructor Information

### Instructor

Kelsey Johnson  
(she/her)

### Contact Info (Email is BEST method)

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### Classroom & Office

Classroom 211H  
Office 205H (Prep 4a, 3b)

## General Information

### Course Description

The focus of this course is to improve in the areas of writing, reading, speaking, listening, and language/grammar. Learners will be exposed to various genres of fiction and non-fiction via whole-class reading units. We will also complete a variety of writing activities with narrative, informative, and argumentative structures.

### Course Objectives

- Learners will read for key ideas and details as well as craft and structure.
- Learners will read to integrate knowledge and ideas.
- Learners will read and comprehend literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.
- Learners will write, produce, and distribute a variety of text types for various purposes.
- Learners will build and present knowledge through writing, speaking, and listening.
- Learners will communicate and collaborate in diverse situations.
- Learners will use standard English conventions when communicating (written or spoken).
- Learners will apply knowledge of language when reading, speaking, and listening.

### WFHS Grade Breakdown:

- A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 0-59%

### Required Materials

- iPad and Logitech Crayon (charged and ready for class)
- A notebook (or a subject portion of a larger notebook) just for this class
- Organizational Tools – Folder? Binder? Notebook? Writing utensils? You do you here.
- Book/Material for unit we're working on
- Your Login Information for apps and iPad

### Participation

English is a humanities-based course, so it requires interaction and participation among learners and teacher. I expect learners are doing their work by deadlines to have productive, successful, and engaging class time.

## Logistics & Communication

### Course Logistics

- Schoology is our one-stop-shop. The main page will have 3 important folders: Welcome Folder (green), Current Week's Folder, Archived/Older Weeks' Folder
- Each folder will have chronological folders. They will be clearly labeled for you and will include the week number and corresponding dates.
- Deadlines will be noted in various locations (Schoology, the whiteboard, verbalized, etc)

### Course Communication

- **Class Updates/Changes:** If circumstances change, I will post updates for assignments and due dates on Schoology. I also try to send a whole-class email (which usually includes parent/guardian emails).
- **Email** is *the number one way* to communicate with me (I prefer it over Schoology msg!)
  - [kelseyjohnson@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:kelseyjohnson@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)
  - Use professional email protocol, which will be taught and practiced in class.
  - Allow for 24 hours to respond during the work week.
- **PowerSchool:** My goal is to always keep grades updated on a weekly basis. Larger projects may take me longer to grade (I usually communicate that to learners).
  - If an assignment is marked with a late indicator (red) – it was turned in late.
  - If an assignment is marked with a missing indicator (orange) – I'm missing it and it needs to be turned in. I'll clear the indicator soon after being turned in.
  - If an assignment is marked with a collected indicator (green) – I have the assignment, I just haven't been able to grade it.
  - If an assignment is marked late/missing/incomplete PLUS a 0 for the grade – I haven't received the assignment and I still need it. Zeros get learner/family attention faster than just a missing/late indicator so I'm likely to get the work faster. *In most cases, a zero for missing/late work will be adjusted to the actual grade! I reserve the right to dock points for late work.*

### Late/Incomplete Work

- Deadlines are posted on Schoology and communicated in class.
- I will announce "Black Out Dates," especially during the research writing unit. Any work turned in after that cannot receive credit. *Extraordinary circumstances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.*
- No late or incomplete work will be accepted for any credit after the summative assessment (final project/test) for that unit. *Extraordinary circumstances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.*

### Make-Up Work

- Let's agree to do our best here. Best practice: communicate early and often.
  - If you know you're going to be absent, communicate with me ahead of time so I can get you your work ahead of time.
  - If you had an unexpected absence, communicate with me ASAP so I can get you your work right away. Email me; I may be able to get you your work via email.
- You promise to do your best for me, and I'll promise to do my best for you.

## Classroom Expectations

- Everything can be boiled down to: **Don't be a clown.**
  - Clown behavior can be described as:
    - Being disrespectful to others in the room (interrupting, ignoring, etc.).
    - Being distracting and obnoxious to other people in the room. Remember, no one has the right to ruin someone else's ability to learn.
    - Using exclusionary or belittling language.
- Let's use our time productively from bell to bell: be in desk ready to learn when bell rings and participate throughout class by not packing up early.
- Follow professional emailing protocol
- Strive to be a better human than you were the previous day.
- There's no need for Comic Sans, excessive exclamation points, or excuses.

## Special Note

I expect everyone in our classroom (including me) to be open-minded, curious, and respectful to everyone in the space. Our classroom is a safe space, and basic human decency is expected. We can challenge and disagree with each other, but we will model respectful communication and negotiation. Respectful communication means both **listening** and **speaking**.

Lastly, we must all be open to praise and criticism, so I do welcome any direct feedback from learners and parents/guardians (via email preferred).

## Tentative Course Units (Details will be communicated as semester progresses)

### Unit Focus

### Tentative Schedule

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***Until They Bring the Streetcars Back***

August 28ish – October 17ish

**By Stanley Gordon West**

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***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stephenson**

October 23 – End of Semester 1

**with some *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

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**Speaking, Writing, and Researching**

Throughout the semester

**(this is English...)**

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## Additional Help & Resources

- Details will be shared once the year gets going and things are shared with teachers. Possible resources would be things like Homework Room, WIN sessions, Closed Study Halls (I “teach” one during Period 4b), etc.

## WFHS Attendance, Cell Phone, and Food/Drink Policy

- Details for all the school-wide policies can be found on our WFHS website. I have also put the ones learners are most concerned about in our Welcome Folder from Ms. Bachmeier's back-to-school message in early August.

## English Department Cheating Policy:

The cheating policy follows the WFHS learner handbook. This includes a zero for the assignment, a SWIS referral (formerly called PACK referral), and notification of the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor.

If caught cheating on a critical and/or common assessment, the critical and/or common assessment still must be successfully completed in order to have the opportunity to pass the class for the semester. In this instance, a zero will be given for the work; however, the work must be successfully completed in order for the teacher to evaluate the learner's skills and readiness to move onto the next course. The timeline for successful completion will be arranged between the learner and teacher and will be communicated with the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor.

If caught accidentally plagiarizing an assignment (i.e. an essay or research paper), the learner will have the opportunity to learn from the mistakes and receive credit for the assessment. Should accidental plagiarism occur, the critical and/or common assessment will be returned to the learner for resubmission. The critical and/or common assessment will not be graded until the learner has made the appropriate revisions. The timeline for successfully resubmitting the assessment and demonstrating mastery of the skills will be arranged between the learner and teacher and will be communicated with the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor. Failure to successfully resubmit the assignment and demonstrate skill mastery will result in a percentage deduction.

The English department recognizes a difference between intentional cheating and accidental plagiarism. Our common definition includes:

- Cheating is the intentional use of someone else's work being presented as one's own work (i.e. submitting another learner's essay).
- Accidental plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own (i.e. forgetting a works cited page; not attributing a quotation to the author; not understanding the correct method of paraphrasing a quotation).

With regard to cheating, school policy will be enforced. Remember that cheating is as much a character issue as it is a policy issue.

## Kelsey Johnson's AI/ChatGPT Policy:

AI (artificial intelligence) is an evolving and growing space as I type this. I recognize the tools available to us right now will evolve as the school year progresses. And, I fully recognize that it's ridiculous for teachers to believe technology like this won't be available to people in the future. Yes, I was once told that I wouldn't have a calculator in my pocket by my math teachers when I was in middle and high school – and look how true *those* threats were.

**However**, and this is the important part here, the students in my classroom still need to understand the *why* and *how* behind grammatical structures, spelling, sentence variety, and the myriad of other things real writing does. This happens by *doing the work* and getting “messy” with writing, drafting, and revising.

**Therefore**, the use of AI in my courses will be considered cheating and will have the same consequences as listed above.

*This AI/ ChatGPT policy is new territory and is evolving. It may change to align with English Department, WFHS, and/or WFPS policies. Any changes will be announced.*