**English 12 2015-2016 Syllabus**

**Instructor: Ms. Stephanie Lindow**

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920-663-9673

Room 319

**Course Objectives:**

This course will give students an understanding of various types of literature through reading, writing responses, regular assessments, speaking, and video/audio elements. Many foundational texts will be used, and emphasis will be placed on the literary elements found within a work as well as the connections that can be made to current events. We will practice reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills related to our studies with an emphasis on reading for comprehension, analysis, interpretation, and making connections. This course is designed to prepare students for learning after high school, thus it will be challenging.

**Course Activities:**

* 1st Quarter
	+ The year will begin by working on college admissions essays followed by beginning an introductory study of fiction-specifically a short story. Foundational texts include *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and various college admissions essays.
* 2nd Quarter
	+ Focused study of how a theme is developed over the course of a text, and how that same theme is treated in various types of texts from different time periods. Foundational texts include *Bang, Bang You’re Dead* and *Twelfth Night.*
* 3rd Quarter
	+ Connecting a novel of constitutional significance to current contexts. This will also involve research and preparation for an argumentative essay/speech that will revolve around an issue of constitutional significance. The foundational text is *The Kite Runner.*
* 4th Quarter
	+ A genre study of science fiction which will include the reading of a science fiction novel and the writing of a science fiction story. The foundational text is *The Road.*

**Materials:**

* Pen or pencil
* Highlighters (preferably at least two that are different colors)
* One subject notebook
* Current text
* 3-ring binder or folder
* Computer

**Expectations:**

* Be on time and prepared for class. This includes bringing the necessary materials to class and being ready to participate in all class activities. Essentially, this is your job as a student.
* Use class time wisely and participate in class activities (this includes necessary note taking).
* Do your best. I don’t expect you to simply try; I want your best on your work.
* Complete assignments on time. This includes reading assignments. As this class is literature based, there will be frequent reading assignments, especially when we begin reading the novels in second semester. Late work will be penalized (see late work section).
* Take responsibility for work missed due to absence. You must take the initiative to make up material you have missed. This includes material covered in class and work done outside of class.
	+ **If you know you are going to miss class, for example a school field trip, you must get your work prior to your absence, and it must be done upon your return to class or earlier, or it will be considered late.**
* Above all: treat everyone with respect.

**Grades:**

* Your grade will be based on essays, tests/quizzes, projects, and in-class work/participation.

Grading is done on a total point system and then converted to a percentage grade:

**100%-98% A+**

**97%-93% A**

**92%-90% A-**

**89%-88% B+**

**87%-83% B**

**82%-80% B-**

**79%-78% C+**

**77%-73% C**

**72%-70% C-**

**69%-63% D**

**62%-60% D-**

**59% > F**

**Late Work:**

* Work turned in a day late is worth a maximum of 75%, two days and later is a maximum of 60%.
* We live in a technological age, and as such many different problems arise with that. You need to plan ahead and be creative at times in how you will get your work turned in on time and complete.

**Plagiarism, Cheating and Misconduct:**

* I want *your* best, not someone else’s. I expect you to complete all assignments, papers, tests, etc. on your own. Plagiarism (copying another’s ideas or words without acknowledgement) is a very serious offense, as is cheating (copying or using answers from another student, using crib notes of any kind, etc.).
* **I support and follow the Lincoln High School Academic Honesty policy. If a student is caught plagiarizing or cheating, he/she will receive a zero on that assignment, and I may contact parents and administration. It may also be necessary for the student to redo that assignment, without credit, in order to demonstrate that they have learned the course material.**
* If you are caught a second time, you will receive a zero in the course.

**Miscellaneous Policies:**

* Use appropriate language (no swearing or use of abusive language).
* Limit requests for passes during my class. So plan ahead and use time between classes wisely.
* I will dismiss you, not the bell. Do not line up by the door and prepare to leave. We will usually be working till the bell, so participate until class is finished.
* Cell phones, iPods, headphones etc. may be used when permission has been granted by me prior to being used. If they become a distraction to the user or others within the class, they will be confiscated for the class period. It will be brought to the office on repeat offenses.
* You should bring your computer to class with you each day.
* Final exams are worth 10% of the semester grade.

**Communication:**

* I am available by email or telephone. Students, I prefer you email me at lindows@manitowocpublicschools.org .
* I will be available before and after school as well as first hour if you need to see me. Please arrange a time to meet with me if possible to ensure that I will be available to help you.
* I will always be available during the WIN period, so please sign up to attend my session to receive help even if the session is not what you want help in.
* I want all of my students to succeed. Please let me know if you have questions, concerns, or need extra help. I am ready and willing to help you pass this class.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I have read the syllabus for English 12 and understand the expectations of the course. I know what plagiarism is and understand the impact plagiarizing will have on my grade.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Over the course of the school year, we will be covering a variety of topics that appear in the literature we will be reading. At times, we will be viewing videos in relation to these pieces of literature that may be rated PG-13 or R, and I am asking for your permission to have your child view these videos.

I believe showing your child films or portions of films such as *The Road* enables them to benefit from experiencing literature in another medium and using it as a launch for studies on interpretations of texts which is a standard of the Common Core State Standards. I understand that some scenes within this movie use harsh language and some violence, yet it does capture the experience within the novel and thus is valuable to help enhance the understanding of the novel and promote discussion on the text. Videos help bring literature off the page, making stories come “alive” thus serving as an important instructional tool.

Please contact me at 920-663-9673 or lindows@mpsd.k12.wi.us with any questions or concerns regarding this permission form or the course in general. Thank You!

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give my son/daughter permission to view curriculum and school appropriate full-length movies rated PG-13 or R.

\_\_\_\_ No, I do not give my son/daughter permission to view curriculum and school appropriate full-length movies of the types mentioned in this letter. I understand alternate learning experiences will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.

Guardian approval: by signing your name you testify that you are the person written and you give permission to your son or daughter to watch the movies mentioned. Your signature will also indicate that you have read the rest of the syllabus detailing the course.

**NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**SIGNATURE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DATE**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERRED CONTACT INFORMATION:** ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­