

## St Thomas More Collegiate English Department

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### Course Outline

<b>Course Name:</b> English 8	<b>Course Blocks and Sections:</b> A [4] and E [5]
<b>Room Number:</b> 202	<b>Instructor:</b> Mr. Chris Trinidad, BMus, BEd
<b>Semester:</b> Fall and Spring 2003	<b>Available For Extra Help in Blocks:</b> B, F, H

**THIS OUTLINE IS TO BE KEPT AT THE FRONT OF YOUR ENGLISH BINDER**

#### **Description:**

The English 8 course emphasizes the basic skills of listening, writing, and reading. Through a variety of exercises, students learn the difference between active and passive listening. They are given a variety of speaking experiences such as oral reading of prose and poetry as well as class and small group discussions. Through literature read in class, students are introduced to new vocabulary, as well as the more common figures of speech. The writing sequence of drafting, revision for clarity, proofreading and editing is introduced. Grammar and punctuation are taught in the context of student writing.

#### **Materials:**

Students will be required to provide a one inch 3 ring binder [preferably D-Ring], a pencil, an eraser, looseleaf paper, and dividers to each class.

In addition, students are to provide a small notebook that will be used as a writing journal.

#### **Content Overview and Tentative Course Schedule [subject to modification]:**

September:	Study Skills/Grammar Basics Review
October:	Paragraph Composition/Short Stories
November:	<u>The Outsiders</u>
December:	<u>The Outsiders</u>
January:	Independent Novel Study/Midterm Exam Review
February:	Poetry
March:	Poetry/Speeches
April:	Speeches
May:	Greek/Roman Mythology
June:	Final Exam Review

Creative writing skills, grammar, punctuation, usage and spelling skills will be taught all year.

### Assessment and Evaluation Profile:

Writing Journal	= 10%
Homework Assignments	= 10%
Development of Social Skills, Attitudes, and Work Habits	= 10%
Projects	= 20%
Tests and Quizzes	= 25%
Exams	= 25%

### Assessment and Evaluation Criteria:

#### Writing Journal

To promote writing facility and encourage creativity, students will keep a writing journal where, at the start of each class, they will write on a variety of topics.

#### Homework Assignments

Homework assignments that are to be graded are due on the date assigned by the instructor. Failure to have the work completed [without an acceptable reason as determined by the instructor] at the due date will lead to a loss of 10% per day over a period of not more than five school days. If the work is not completed within the time given, the student is to be referred to the appropriate administrator. The student will complete the work with the administrator and can achieve a grade of up to 50%. Students who refuse to complete their work will be suspended and a meeting with the parents will follow.

Students will be placed under contract if there is a consistent pattern of being referred to the administration over not completing homework assignments. Failure to live up to the terms of the contract will lead to their expulsion.

This homework policy [as instituted by the school] will ensure that all students complete the graded assignments and by so doing will improve student academic accountability, and, hence, academic performance.

If students are absent when an assignment is due, that assignment will be considered late. To receive credit for a late assignment, it must be handed in with a note stating certified reason and cause for absence as provided by a parent, guardian or doctor.

#### Projects

There will be one project per unit in addition to various additional assignments.

#### Development of Social Skills, Attitudes, and Work Habits

Participation in this course will allow students to develop the needed social skills and attitudes necessary to function in today's world. Each student's contribution to maintaining a respectful and safe atmosphere in class, and on fieldtrips and evidence of personal responsibility is reflected in this section.

Since these English classes occur in the music room [202], it is imperative that students understand the handout entitled "**Music Classroom Rules**" and follow it. This section correlates with the work habit mark and defines it within the context of an English class using the following rubric:

<b>Social Skills, Attitudes and Work Habits Assessment Criteria</b>	
10/10	This student is encouraging, supporting and accepting of others and there is strong evidence of leadership skills. This student displays superior emotional control, self-motivation and aims to facilitate the learning of others through an infectious positive attitude in class and on field trips. This student always strives for excellence and arrives on time for class with all materials.
8/10	This student displays good emotional control and good attention in class and on fieldtrips. This student is generally courteous, follows classroom rules and rarely interrupts others. This student also displays respect for classroom equipment. This student generally arrives on time for class with all materials.
6/10	This student is generally on task and participates at a satisfactory level. Effort and attitude meet acceptable standard but self-motivation and initiative could use improvement. This student needs an occasional reminder to respect classroom equipment.
4/10	Lack of attention, inappropriate behavior, and poor etiquette are evident with this student. This student constantly disrupts the learning of others and effort and attitude do not meet acceptable standards. This student consistently needs reminders to respect classroom equipment.
2/10	Attitude, participation, and effort do not meet acceptable standards. Student is rarely on task and is actively disrespectful of teachers, peers and property.

#### **Assessment and Evaluation Criteria [continued]:**

##### Tests, Quizzes and Exams

There will be a minimum of one test for each unit in addition to regular quizzes. If a student misses a test due to sickness or a medical condition, they are expected to contact the school no later than 9 AM on the day of the test and leave a message with the front office and with the voice mail of the instructor. Students must also bring a note justifying their absence to the instructor and to the front office immediately upon their return to the school.

If a student complies with these tasks, they will be granted a re-write of the missed test at a time and on the day that is convenient for the subject teacher. If the student does not comply with the above mentioned tasks, they risk being granted a zero for that test.

If a student misses a testing situation because of an extra-curricular activity, it is the responsibility of the student to tell the teacher well in advance [not on the day of or the block before] of the test day so arrangements can be made. For example, the instructor may arrange to have the student write the test during lunch before they leave for their activity. Failure to notify the teacher leaves the student at risk of being granted a zero for that test.

In all cases of missed tests, the responsibility falls to the student to make contact with the teacher and the front office.

There will be a midterm exam for all students in January and a final exam in June for all students who do not meet 80%. Term marks will be distributed equally between the first and second semesters.

**Student Cheating and Plagiarism on Exams and Assignments:**

Given what has transpired at the university level over the last few years and the growing reports of cheating in educational settings, we are adopting the following policy toward students who cheat: any student found cheating on an exam or assignment will be granted a mark of zero. If a student demonstrates a consistent pattern of cheating, that student will be placed under contract. Failure to live up to the terms of the contract will lead to expulsion.

Plagiarism means to take the work, ideas, or writing of others and offer them as your own. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. **All** who are found to have taken work that is not their own or who have helped someone else plagiarize will receive zero for the assignment. They will not be able to make up missed marks, will be sent to administration and a telephone call home will be made.

**"Getting it Together Toward the Road to Success":**

Be sure to show up on time, all the time. If you arrive after the second bell, knock on the door and wait to be admitted to class. If you are late it is your responsibility to catch up on any missed instructions or work.

Be sure to show up to class with all of the necessary materials. You will not be allowed to go to your locker during class if you forget any of these.

Form a "buddy partnership" with someone in class. You will collect handouts, take notes, record assignments and contact each other in the event of an absence.

Engage yourself in all classroom activities. Use your time efficiently. Share your ideas. Listen to others. Ask questions. Take a risk.

Speak and listen to one another respectfully. Do not interrupt when someone else is speaking. Take care of the materials we use in the classroom. Recycle appropriately. Garbage belongs in the proper containers.

**In the words of famous NFL coach Vince Lombardi:**

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will."