

# English II Course Outline

## **Course Description:**

English II is designed to improve analysis of characters, plot, symbols and themes; to create a more discerning reader. By the end of the year, students will be more adept at analyzing and critiquing various texts using textual evidence to support their claims. Through their examination of a variety of texts, students will be capable of discussing various texts in an intelligent manner using the appropriate technical and academic language. Students will be capable of determining the theme or central idea and analyze in detail its development throughout the text. Students will also learn both to recognize and use a variety of literary devices as well as demonstrate competency in writing an assortment of essays.

English II will also focus on improving students' writing skills. Regular grammar and vocabulary lessons will be infused into each unit, and both in-class and formal essays will be used as both formative and summative exercises to improve and assess students' writing progress. The course will also emphasize independent thought reinforced with research and supported by evidence—the basis of good argumentation. The predominant theme of the sophomore literature is our place in society and how we define our role within that society. Students will be reading the novels All Quiet on the Western Front and To Kill a Mockingbird as well as the plays *Death of a Salesman* and *Julius Caesar*. Both fictional and informational texts will be used as supplements to the major literary works.

## **Learning Objectives and Essential Assignments:**

In order to meet the course objectives and requirements outlined in the California Common Core standards, English II students will be responsible for completing several essential assignments and assessments.

Students will:

- Read from the following play and novel list both in class and independently for homework: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Remarque, and The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
- Complete a weekly analysis of an informational text from modern media
- Have weekly vocabulary, Greek and Latin roots and grammar assessments
- Be evaluated for essential learning outcomes attached to each thematic unit via formative and summative assessments throughout each unit
- Engage in independent reading both inside and outside of class

## **English Department Grading Policies:**

Each English Course at Vanden High School is graded according to the same weighted scale:

<u>Categories:</u>	<u>Grading Scale:</u>
<b>Formative Assessments</b> (Skills Development)	20%
<b>Summative Assessments</b> (Unit Exams)	35%
<b>Self-Study</b> (Homework and Classwork)	30%
<b>Quizzes</b>	15%

## **English Department Policies:**

The following policies are in place within each of Vanden's English Courses. In all English classrooms, students are expected to behave in a manner appropriate for a professional student.

- No late work is accepted (this does not include work due while a student is absent)
- Incomplete work will not be accepted nor assigned credit
- Handwritten work must be in MLA format and submitted using blue or black ink, only
- Typed work must be in MLA format
- Technological problems will not be accepted as an excuse for failing to turn in an assignment on-time
- All school rules will be enforced, including policies regarding attendance, dress-code and academic dishonesty