

ENG4U: Course Syllabus

Redeemer Christian High School
Mr. Vance (dvance@rchs.on.ca)
<http://rchs.on.ca/eng4u-university-english-mr-vance/>

Semester 1
2017-2018

Introduction:

Welcome to the senior university-level English class. In this course, we'll be writing, listening, reading, and working on other communication skills. Works from various time periods, countries, and cultures will be analyzed, and excellent (beautiful, moving) essays will be written. Discerning the viewpoints of authors and comparing them to a Biblical perspective will be an *important* focus, especially as we peer into the darkness of the world, and the powerful, true, real hope for light and redemption.

In this course, a special emphasis will be placed on preparing students for university, which will be reflected in a greater emphasis on freedom *and* personal responsibility. Students will make choices regarding their evaluation options, and they will organize their time in order to have their readings completed for the assigned dates.

In all of this, we will learn to appreciate and respect each other's views, and of course, have fun!

Units of Study and Evaluation Plan

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|---|--------------|
| 1. Poetry and Society – A Transition through Time | (22 periods) |
| 2. <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> – Acknowledging the Darkness | (22 periods) |
| 3. <i>Hamlet</i> – Acknowledging the Confusion | (22 periods) |
| 4. SUMMATIVE: Literature Circles – Acknowledging the Hope | (22 periods) |
| 5. ISU (ongoing): Theme Comparison Essay | (ongoing) |
| 6. Grammar/Vocabulary | (ongoing) |

Assignments, Assessments and Evaluation:

Near to the beginning of the course you will be given an **Evaluation Plan** which will chart out the evaluations you will need to complete throughout this semester. This course recognizes that everyone learns differently and has varied interests, so there will be some choice in the types of evaluations and assignments you may complete throughout the course.

However, this course also recognizes that some skills are essential as you prepare for university: namely the ability to write essays and the ability to communicate your thoughts orally. As such, you will be required to write multiple essays and conduct multiple presentations during the semester.

Assessment OF, AS, and FOR Learning: At the end of each unit, the teacher will assess your mastery of the skills and concepts in the form of a test or another graded assignment. These are assessments **OF** learning; the grades you receive on them count towards your final grade. However, we will also use several informal feedback methods to help you (and me) understand how well you're learning the content. These informal checks are called assessments **FOR** learning, and they **do not** count towards your grade.

(Note the assessment box on the teacher's desk. If you would like FREE, targeted feedback on your work so far, deposit your in-progress assignment into this box. Make sure you do it well before the due date, and highlight which section you'd like me to assess – up to one section of the assignment, like the introduction or the first body paragraph. Note that you can do this as many times as you'd like – but you have to ask for it, and make the changes I suggest as you go along. I will try to give you feedback on your work within 24 hours.)

Note that I will not comment on grammar and spelling – that's your responsibility to proofread – but I will give you big-picture feedback on where you are strong and what could use improvement. If you take the initiative to make use of this excellent assessment FOR learning, it is nearly guaranteed that you will produce stronger work than if you don't use it.)

Occasionally, the teacher will have you assess your own work – or the work of your friends – as a final check before you submit it. This is called assessment **AS** learning.

Phase	Categories	Relative Weights
Term Work	Knowledge/Understanding	18%
	Thinking/Inquiry	18%
	Communication	20%
	Application	15%
Final Evaluation	Final Exam	30%

Expectations and Classroom Routines:

1. You will be in your seat and ready to learn before the bell rings. Your silent reading book will be open. And, of course, you will be incredibly excited to study excellent English literature!
2. If you have questions to ask the teacher: Please do not crowd around his desk! Do not form a mob around him. Instead, sit

quietly and politely at your desk with your hand raised. Your teacher will be moved by your respectful attitude and quickly come to help you. (Unless he doesn't see you.)

3. You must **always** have a **prose** book on hand to read in class. We will begin each day with silent reading, and you will read this book if you finish early in any class activity. As such, it is mandatory that you bring a silent reading book to each and every class.
4. What Grade 12 means: now that you're in Grade 12, we must prepare you for university. This means that **no additional time** can be granted on tests, since you will not receive extra time in university. In addition, we have much material to cover in this class. In each unit you will be given a schedule that outlines when specific chapters, short stories, etc. are to be read. *It is your responsibility to have completed the assigned reading for the day that it is due.* Occasionally, time will be provided for you to read in class; often you will have to complete the readings on your own time – just like in university.
5. Homework: Homework will often be assigned to give you opportunity to practice concepts and to complete work that does not require the presence of the teacher (like reading a section of a book and answering comprehension questions). Completion of this work is *essential* for meaningful participation in class discussions. If you do not do your homework, you are robbing your class of your unique voice and insights, and that is not fair to anyone.
6. Absences: If you are absent from a class, it is **your** responsibility to obtain the material from a fellow student or the teacher (outside of class time).
7. Assignments: In an effort to foster a spirit of professionalism, we will insist that a **paper** copy be placed (neatly) on my desk **at the beginning of class** on the day that it is due.
 - a. If an assignment is not on my desk when I collect and tally them, it will be considered "late." According to our late policy, 10% will be deducted for each day that it is late, you will be sent to study hall until it is complete, and your parents will be contacted to notify them of the missing assignment.
 - b. Written assignments should be turned into *turnitin.com* by 4pm on the day an assignment is due.
 - i. Class ID: **16161036**
 - ii. Password: **books**
8. Extensions: Occasionally, things pile up. If you would like an extension on the due date of an assignment, the teacher will be favorably inclined to work with you if:
 - a. You ask at least **two** days ahead of time: I need to see that you are thinking about this in advance and not waiting until the last minute.
 - b. You send a polite, well-constructed **email** requesting that your deadline be moved to a specific date. You need to be able to explain both **why** this would be of benefit to you and you need to provide a **specific date** by which you will be able to provide your best work.
9. At the beginning of the semester, each student will be given three Grace Passes. These are incredibly valuable slips of paper because each Grace Pass is a free pass in case (for whatever reason) you were unable to complete your homework. They also function as a one-day extension for major assignments. **The only times they do not work are if you are scheduled to do a presentation on a specific day, or for test/exams.** Do not lose them!
10. Tests:
 - a. Test dates: In university, test dates are firm and final, regardless of students' individual life situations. In an effort to prepare you for this reality, **no extensions will be granted for tests.** Part of your challenge as a student this year will be to anticipate crunch times and to prepare well in advance so that you will be prepared to write the test on the day that it is scheduled.
 - b. Missed tests: If you know you will be away for a test, discuss this with the teacher at least **two class days ahead** of the scheduled test day. Tests missed due to illegitimate absence (skipping) will be recorded as zero. Tests missed due to legitimate absence will be written in class **on the day the student returns to school.** Be ready!
11. **On discussion:** We may not come to consensus on all issues. As such these two principles will guide our discussions:
 - a. Disagreement does not equal dislike – we need to be able to disagree with each other respectfully – this is training for university discussions, not to mention... life? Try saying this out loud: "I disagree... but I don't hate you!"
 - b. We are **all** made in the image of God – so we must avoid hating/dehumanizing any individual or group. No exceptions. Let's be kind... even when others are not.

These principles demand respect for each other. Let us be **intense** in the way we show love and respect to all.

12. This is going to be a great year. I'm really excited to explore this literature with all of you. It will be intense, but it will also be really good. Let's treat each other with grace and respect and enjoy studying together!