

English Language Arts 11th Grade Common Course Syllabus
West Potomac High School 2015-2016

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Course Description

In 11th grade English Language Arts, students will read a variety of American literary works including persuasive writing, novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and works of non-fiction. Students will study the relationships among literature, history, and other cultures. They will recognize that context influences meaning and notice patterns in literature. Students will also continue to apply and improve upon their writing process skills, writing in a variety of formats and adapting their writing to different audiences. This is a Standards of Learning aligned course which is tested in 11th grade; therefore, **all students are required to take the Standards of Learning End of Course Test in both writing and reading.**

Skills and Processes:

- Apply knowledge of formal literary elements.
- Identify the role of context in determining the meaning of words and phrases
- Increase basic vocabulary for standardized testing and individual growth
- Recognize the role of style and voice in establishing an author's persona
- Establish criteria of evaluation for literature, art and film
- Review basic, global organization of thesis paper
- Practice research collection using a variety of resources
- Practice writing on demand

Other Texts: This year we will read a variety of texts including novels and book-length nonfiction. As a class, we will read books that meet our course objectives and provide us with the opportunity to explore issues faced by society today and throughout history. A committee of administrators, teachers, and parents at your school has approved these books. Titles you *may* encounter, based on teacher discretion, include:

Great Gatsby
"Raisin in the Sun"
Catcher in the Rye
Huck Finn
Looking for Alaska

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The Old Man and the Sea
Hondo
Crucible
On The Road
To Kill a Mockingbird

Please note that some of the books you will read this year may contain mature content and/or controversial material (i.e. offensive language, violence, and/or implied or explicit sexual situations). The resources listed below can be used to see book reviews and get more information about the books we will use in our class.

- Fairfax County Library <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>
- Bartleby.com: Great Books Online <http://www.bartleby.com>
- Book Reporter <http://www.bookreporter.com>
- Book Spot <http://www.bookspot.com/>
- Teen Reads <http://www.teenreads.com>

If your parent or guardian would like to review any of these texts or request an alternate reading assignment please have him or her your teacher directly.

Fairfax County's Grading Scale:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade
100 – 93	A	79 – 77	C+
92 – 90	A-	76 – 73	C
89 – 87	B+	72 – 70	C-
86 – 83	B	69 – 67	D+
82 – 80	B-	66 – 64	D
		Below 64	F

The final course grade will be determined by the averages of the four quarters. The final exam grade is handled at the discretion of the teacher.

English Language Arts Skills

- Reading Comprehension & Content Knowledge
- Application
- Analysis & Synthesis
- Conventions & Formatting
- Organization & Clarity
- Purposeful Control of Language and Medium

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Classroom Expectations

Be prepared . . . with a POSITIVE ATTITUDE and the proper materials.

Supplies: To be determined by the individual teacher. Common supplies include:

- A 3 subject notebook with pockets for handouts
- A separate one subject notebook for journal writing
- Text or assigned novel
- Planner for assignments
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, small sticky notes

Be on time and ready to learn

You will be tardy if you are not in the classroom with all materials when the bell rings!
Each teacher has their own policies on leaving the classroom.

Be respectful to others .

Course Policies and Requirements:

Communication

All e-mails and phone calls from students and parents will be answered within 48 hours.

Honor Code Statement

All students will agree to the following pledge, per the West Potomac High School Honor Code:

I am entrusted with the responsibility of upholding and contributing to an atmosphere of mutual respect, honesty, and fairness. My personal honor is essential to preserve my good name and the integrity of the West Potomac Community. In that interest, I pledge that I will neither plagiarize nor give/receive unauthorized aid on any test, quiz, research paper, lab or any other student-generated work.

To maintain academic integrity at West Potomac High School, all students will avoid:

- Cheating – gaining or receiving of unauthorized information
- Fraud – deceiving others for personal gain (including copying, forgery, dishonesty, and falsifying data)
- Plagiarism – copying the language, structure, idea, and/or thought of another person and representing it as one's own original work; using information obtained from printed or electronic sources that is not appropriately cited

Student Responsibilities

To maintain and support the academic integrity of the school community by

- completing all assigned work, activities, and tests according to the stated policies without engaging in cheating, fraud, or plagiarism.
- understanding the school-wide Honor Code and individual teacher assignment guidelines.
- clarifying with the instructor any ambiguities about violations of the Honor Code on an assignment.
- protecting individual work from use by other students unless teacher permission is specifically given.

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Honor Code/Academic Integrity

There will be absolutely no tolerance for cheating in any form. Cheating is giving or receiving unauthorized aid on any assignment. Students will still be expected to complete the assigned work, or its equivalent, to demonstrate mastery of the skill or knowledge the original assignment is intended to measure. Should an instance of suspected cheating occur, teachers will follow the procedure indicated in the West Potomac High School Honor Code.

Late Work/Revision Policy:

Failing to turn in an assignment on time means that a student will miss an opportunity to develop or refine their skills. However, students who miss assignments will have the opportunity to make arrangements with their teacher to receive alternative assistance and support. This will largely be done through Wolverine Time and after school.

Because process work is an opportunity to practice the skills that students are developing, not all work will be graded. Students will receive feedback on their practice work, which will help them develop their skills so that they can demonstrate their abilities on the graded assessments.

If the student has any concerns about meeting an assignment deadline, he or she should communicate a need for an extension at least 48 hours prior to the assignment due date.

Make sure to review individual teacher's addendum for specific criteria.