St. Pius X High School

English 101 2026-2027

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Mission of St. Pius X High School
"To Restore All Things in Christ"- Pope Pius X

St. Pius X High School builds a foundation in faith, academic excellence, and lifelong learning, partnering with families to enhance Catholic morals and authentic truth for the greater glory of God.

Course Overview

Welcome to English 101! I am happy to have you. This is the course where we will sample at the rich table of literature, which includes short stories, plays, novels, and more! Your critical thinking skills will be challenged and your reading comprehension will be strengthened through various reading and writing assignments, group projects, and collaborative activities. Each day you will come across either comprehension, grammar, mechanics or vocabulary practices. Throughout all, your ability to analyze and draw conclusions through the written word will be evaluated. This will be done using quizzes, projects, essays, and research papers.

Required Texts

* must purchase

- *Poems* by C.S. Lewis *- Summer Reading
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck*- Fall Semester
- *The Devil and Tom Walker* by Washington Irving - provided in class- Fall Semester
- *The Odyssey* by Homer- provided in class- Spring Semester
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee*- Spring Semester
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespear- provide in class- Spring Semester
- Various fairy tales, tall tales, folk tales, fables, Psalms and works of poetry

Grading

Quizzes - 10 to 20 pts maximum
Projects/Essays/Exams - 100 pts each
In-class reading/participation - 25 pts maximum
Discussion - Once a week, points will vary
Final Exam - 15 % of final grade

Homework/ Assessments, Tests, or Exams

All exams should ultimately have one purpose: To assess a student's meaningful absorption of knowledge. After each book or unit, you will have an assessment. Assessments will come in a variety of formats, and often will be 2-part in different formats (see Tentative Schedule for more details).

What if I miss my spoken exam time?

If a student fails to show for a scheduled spoken exam time, the student will receive a "0" on spoken portion of exam. Students can change date and time of a spoken exam *up to the day before* their scheduled spoken exam.

What if I turn in my homework, essay, or project late?

25% off per day the assignment is late. If you are sick or your late period extends over the weekend, you are still expected to complete at home and submit electronically to Google Classroom. Example: Essay due Friday. Submitted Monday; although "A" quality, still = 25%.

Do you give extensions?

Extensions will be permitted on occasion of severe sickness or family death. If severe sickness is undocumented in FACTS, you must first approach administration. If administration gives documented approval, Mrs. Estep. And the student shall discuss and agree upon new due date.

In-Class Reading, Homework, & Quizzes

Repetition and accountability are essential to retaining reading material. Students will be taught how to take anecdotal notes during class and are expected to take notes while completing their daily reading assignments. On occasion there will be quizzes over reading assignments and homework (the anecdotal notes) will be graded.

What if I miss a day?

If you miss class due to a sports event, appointment, or sickness (without doctor's note), you must be prepared for 2 quizzes: The quiz for the day you missed and the quiz the day of your return.

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- You will make-up any quizzes you missed at the beginning of class time upon date of return, whether you are prepared or not.

Can I retake a quiz?

No. **There will be no quiz retakes** as the minimum requirement to succeed is to pay attention, finish work in class, and do < 30 minutes of nightly homework.

Participation Points

In-class reading will either be in partners, small groups, or whole-group. **In order to earn full points, a student must be a.) on-task;** points may be deducted if a student is repeatedly caught off-task or sleeping. **A student must also be b.) participatory in their group.** Mrs. Estep keeps a weekly log of how often each individual reads and how much of a contribution each individual is making during group-work.

What happens if I miss a day?

Make sure you make up for it upon return. I.e.: Check group reading log. Ensure that you've read an equal number of times as fellow group members by the end of the week.

Preparedness for Class

Students need to come every day reading for class. **Students must have with them:** A **writing utensil** (preferably a pencil), their **ELA notebook**, **book we are currently reading**, and their **planner**. If a student forgets their assigned reading book, the student may lose points for the day.

Restroom/locker policy: The only acceptable times to leave the classroom are during check-in/quiz time (first 5 minutes of class) and review time (final 5 minutes of class). All other times are considered instructional time and therefore necessary to a student's learning. If student is habitually unprepared or leaving class for a restroom or locker visit, Mrs. Estep will write up for unpreparedness. No student can leave the room without an agenda sign-off. *If a student does not have an agenda, they cannot leave the room.*

Behavior

This classroom is a classroom in which we conduct ourselves and treat others as children of God. Though you can refer to the student handbook for most expectations, here is a simple protocol for behavior:

- Minor offenses (dress code, tardiness, excessive chatting or unpreparedness): Demerit.
- Major offenses (disappearance during class exceeding 5 minutes, disrespect, bullying, roughhousing, class disruption, inappropriate language): referral, and "0" pts participation for the day.

Academic Dishonesty

Essays: All Essays will have a HANDWRITTEN rough draft turned in and discussed with Mrs. Estep before a final draft will be allowed to be submitted. Every final essay will be submitted to Turnitin to check for AI, ChatGPT, and any other form of plagiarism. If found plagiarizing, a student will receive a "0" or an "F" and the act of plagiarizing will also be taken to administration.

Final Essays (Essays given for the final in class) will only be accepted handwritten.

Quizzes: There are 4 + versions of each reading quiz, so the likelihood of benefitting from a neighbor's answers is slim. Plus, the quizzes will be designed to be intentionally difficult; if you *do* have the same quiz, your neighbor is likely to have the wrong answers. Under these conditions, if a student should still choose to cheat, he or she will receive a "0" or an "F" on the assignment and the act of plagiarizing will be taken to administration.

Email Professionalism

Always include the following basics:

–Title the subject of your email, Capitalized

–Sign off with your name and hour/class. Example:

"Sincerely,

(line break)

Harper Lee, Hour 5"

–Use proper grammar (complete, capitalized sentences; check for spelling and punctuation)

–Remember your manners. I am taking my time and attention to answer you.

You must use your St. Pius X email account for all correspondence. I attempt to answer all emails within 24 hours during normal school hours. Emails sent during the weekend will not be responded to until the following Monday. Emails sent after 6:00 pm will not be answered until the following school day.

Cell phones

The current cell phone policy at St. Pius X is that phones are not to be present in the classroom at any time. Though Mrs. Estep will not search your person, let it be known that if there is even a suspicion that you are checking your cell phone in your pocket or purse at any time, Mrs. Estep will confiscate your phone, write you a referral, and take it to Mrs. Sharp for safekeeping until the end of the school day.

Purse/Bag Policy

All purses/small bags allowed to be taken from class to class will need to stay on the designated table in the classroom. No student should have a purse/small bag at their desk or below their desk at any time during the class period.