

## Oswego High School - English I - Mrs. Goddard

**Course Description:** Language usage, written communication and the study of the forms of literature are the strong emphases for this course. Students will begin to prepare themselves for the SAT and ACT Assessment tests and lifetime reading and writing. Additionally, this course is designed in part to prepare students for admission to a university. Students will have extensive reading of significant literature in a variety of literary genres including the short story, poetry, drama, and the novel. Short story authors include Richard Connell, Edgar Allan Poe, Guy de Maupassant, etc. The poetry unit will explore lyric, ballads, free verse, blank verse, etc. by a variety of authors. Shakespeare will be the primary focus for drama. The novel unit will consist of adolescent fiction/non-fiction by Robert Lipsyte and Ray Bradbury. Students will experience substantial recurrent practice in writing ranging from creative to technical. Writing assignments will be completed each nine weeks, and two book reports will be assigned. The overriding goal of this course is to develop skills in understanding the structure, form, and values of literature, writing, and oral communication.

### Course Objectives:

The student will:

- Read narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive text structures for a variety of purposes.
- Effectively write for a variety of audiences, purposes, and contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the four forms of literature.
- Implement effective research practices using various technologies.
- Communicate appropriately in a variety of contexts.
- Use listening skills to gain knowledge and communicate.

These objectives are aligned with the standards and indicators set by the Kansas State Board of Education. Students are expected to become familiar with these standards and indicators. A list of indicators is posted in the classroom.

**Grading Procedure:** The Oswego-Service Valley Unified Schools will use the following grading system:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-0	F

Student grades in English I will reflect the following breakdown:

Homework and Activities (Averaged; 30% of grade)

Writing Assignments / Book Reports (Averaged; 30-35% depending on quarter)

Tests (Averaged; 30% of grade)

Journals (Collected at end of each quarter: 10-5% depending on quarter)

**Supplies needed everyday for class:**

- Spiral or loose leaf notebook for journal writing only
- Notebook paper for lecture notes and activities
- Pen or pencil
- Literature text

Students will not be allowed to go to their locker to retrieve the above items. Not bringing your materials will result in loss of any extra credit.

Always be prepared for class!

**Conduct and Consequences:**

- Be in seat when the bell rings — Students not in seat will be tardy.
- All assignments are required, not optional --- Late work will result in a late grade of minus twenty points. If homework is not received within two days of due date, parents will be called.
- Absolutely no profanity --- Warning/office. Profanity in homework will result in a zero.
- Negativity towards this class, other students, or faculty will not be tolerated --- Warning/office.
- Students are expected to be active participants in discussions and activities --- lack of participation will result in a student/teacher conference.
- No cheating – No credit will be given for the assignment or exam.
- Not following the directions on any given task will result in a zero.
- Do not use symbols and or abbreviations such as &, b/c, w/o, etc. on assignments. Repeated use will result in a loss of points.
- Students follow USD 504 attendance policy. Refer to student handbook for policy details.
- Students are responsible for checking on work missed during an absence -- during class time is not acceptable. Come before class time or the seminar before class time.
- Work must be turned in before departing for a school related absence.
- Renaissance coupons are accepted for early release and homework exemption. The homework must be completed before the grade will be omitted. Test exemptions are not accepted.
- Follow all school rules – See student handbook

**Writing Assignment Policy:**

Students must follow the directions given for each assignment. Failure to follow the directions will result in a zero. All writing assignments must be spell checked and proofread. Failure to run spell check and proofread will result in a zero. Students must keep their own portfolio of work. Teacher will not keep a collection for their future use.

**Rewrite Policy:**

Once a writing assignment has been returned to student, it may be rewritten to improve work and grade. A rewrite due date will be posted on the board. Late rewrites will not be accepted. The original graded paper must be turned in with the rewrite. Rewrites not containing the original paper will not be accepted – no exceptions. Students may rewrite as many times as they would like.

**Retest Policy:**

Students are allowed to retest most exams. Teacher will state which exams are retestable. Students are given two seminar periods or time by appointment to retest. No late retest will be allowed. Final grade is determined by averaging the two exam scores.

# JOURNALS

Every Tuesday and Thursday, a quote, line, or phrase will be on the board. You are to respond to the quotes in your journals. Each student must respond to ***at least 10 by the end of each quarter.***

Journal entries are to be written ***on your own time.*** Unless time is given in class, you should not be writing in your journals when your attention should be focused on another lesson.

Your journal entries should be at least one paragraph long. One paragraph equals ***at least ten sentences.*** Any entry under ten sentences will be considered incomplete.

Journals will be handed in and graded at the end of each quarter. Your grade will be based on the ***completeness of the assignment*** and the ***thought process behind your responses.*** Let your imagination control your pen, and consider this a "free-write." You will not be graded on grammar errors, but you should always follow the conventions of good writing. Do not use symbols and abbreviations in entries.

Do not fall behind on your writing! This is a big portion of your grade in the class.

Extra credit will be given for extra journal entries. Two points will be given for each entry over the requirement. Extra credit entries must have at least ten sentences. No extra credit will be given if journal is turned in late.