A tiger with claws on it

Description automatically generatedEnglish II On-Level Course Syllabus

2024-2025 School Year

# Teacher Ms. Sydney Benefiel

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| Phone | Email (preferred contact) | Classroom |
| 281-329-2094 | sydney.benefiel@fortbendisd.gov | L234 |

# Introduction & Course Overview

Hello and welcome to English II On-Level! I am excited to be a part of your sophomore year at Travis High School; I expect that we will have a productive year of teaching and learning from each other. In this course, students will be expected to use critical thinking skills to analyze, discuss, and connect literary texts across a variety of different genres. Students will be expected to engage with texts with both written and verbal responses. Students will also practice grammatical and mechanical writing skills. We will engage in classroom discussions to express our ideas, thoughts, and opinions about our learning. By challenging ourselves this year, we will become stronger intellectuals ready to face whatever the future holds!

Course updates will be sent via Schoology messages.

## Class Schedule & Tutorial Times

**Class Schedule:**

1st Period: English II On-level 5th Period: English II AAC

2nd Period: English II On-level 6th Period: Conference

3rd Period: English II On-level 7th Period: English II AAC

4th Period: English II AAC

**Tutorial Times**

Students are welcome to visit any of the following teachers during their tutorial sessions.

**Benefiel:** Mondays and Tuesdays, 2:50 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Room L234

**Metcalf:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:45 a.m. – 7:20 a.m., Room L235

**Hartley:** Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:50 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Room L206

**Acosta:** Mondays at 2:50 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 6:45 a.m. – 7:20 a.m., Room L214

\*Please adhere to posted schedule only - teacher presence does not imply availability. Do not enter the teacher's room for help outside the schedule without prior consent and invitation. Special circumstances must apply. Extra-curricular activities are not special circumstances. Last minute attendance risks that students will not get help. Everyone wants last-minute help. Attend teacher tutorials regularly and well in advance of deadlines.

## Classroom Expectations

* RESPECT yourself, others, and our environment.
* PARTICIPATE actively and KEEP AN OPEN MIND!
* We will create and maintain a SAFE, POSITIVE, and WELCOMING learning environment.
* Come to class PREPARED and READY to learn.
* YOU will take responsibility for YOUR decisions and actions.

## Required Materials

Please acquire these supplies by **Monday, August 12th.**

* **1 college-ruled spiral or composition notebook (IMPORTANT!)**
* #2 or mechanical pencil(s)
* 2 black or blue pens and 2 red pens
* 4 different color highlighters
* **District assigned laptop** (personal devices will not be permitted for use)
* OPTIONAL: hand sanitizer, tissues

## Exposure to a Variety of Texts & Independent Reading

**Variety of Texts**

We will read, watch, and discuss a variety of texts in our class this year to encourage students to consider differing viewpoints as well as a variety of cultures and beliefs. These skills are mandatory skills assigned by the State of Texas through its Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS). As a class, we want students to form their own thoughts and opinions to be shared regarding these texts. Some of the topics we discuss could be considered controversial. In some cases, students may be exposed to ideas that are contrary their own beliefs. The goal of this exposure is to teach students how to communicate in a constructive dialogue using concrete details, various argumentative strategies, and facts, not to change anyone’s personal beliefs; This is all a part of our efforts to help create constructive discourse. We will teach students how to analyze and create individual arguments while exposing them to a variety of ideas from various perspectives that will help them learn and understand different viewpoints.

**It is the student’s responsibility to inform their teacher of any issues, ideas, or language that makes them uncomfortable to help us create a safe and trusting classroom environment.**

**Independent Reading**

## Throughout this course, students will participate in self-selected independent reading. The selected text should be at the appropriate reading level and book-length. Students have freedom to choose any text; As educators, we will only assign novels from FBISD approved list. Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring their student’s independent reading choices.

**Technology Use**

The use of technology will be very prevalent throughout this course. Students will be expected to complete a variety of activities on digital platforms such as Schoology, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Kahoot, Canva, etc. To complete online coursework, students must use their district assigned laptop. **Technology use is restricted to class activities ONLY** to prevent additional distractions in the classroom.

Students are expected to bring their district assigned laptop and charger to class every day. **Repeated failure to bring their district laptop to class will result in a discipline referral.**

**Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism**

Our classroom will be a zero-tolerance space for cheating and plagiarism. Any submitted work that is not your own will receive a zero as well as warrant parent contact and an office referral. This includes the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT and plagiarism of another’s work. Please see the student handbook for the formal definition(s) of cheating.

**Grades & Late Work Policy**

**Grades**

Grades will be determined by various assessments, journals, quizzes, essays, homework, and class participation. Assignments will be graded and entered in the gradebook in a timely manner according to their weight. Please allow the following time frames for the following grades:

* Daily Grades = 5 business days
* Written Assignments = 10 business days

Grades will be weighted **50% Daily / 50% Major.**

**Late Work Policy**

Due dates for assignments will be provided at the time they are assigned. Students are expected to complete work in a timely manner and communicate with the teacher if they are unable to meet the given deadline. Points will be deducted from the assignment grade for each day it is late. Late work deductions are as follows: **1 day late = -10 points, 2 days late = -20 points, 3 days late = -30 points, 4days late = -50 points, 5 days late = 0 in gradebook**

If you know you will be absent, it is your job to communicate this with the teacher to ensure that no false points are deducted. If you are absent on the day of a test, you will need to take a make-up test when you are next present.

**Retests & Essay Revisions**

**Retests**

If a student makes **below a 75** on a major grade test, they have the option of taking a retest. The student will be given **one week to attend a tutorial session and take the retest.** The student must come to the tutorial session prepared with questions. If a student fails to attend the tutorial, they will not be able to take the retest. **The highest grade possible for a retest is a 75.**

**Essay Revisions**

If a student receives **below a 75** on an essay, they may come to a tutorial session to ask about teacher notes and revise their work. **Required tutorial attendance and proper revisions** will give the student the opportunity to receive **up to a 75** on their work.

**Email Communication Expectations (Parents/Guardians AND Students)**

* Teacher response will occur during office hours (7am-3pm) in 1-2 school days, depending on volume. Ex. Friday night email will be answered by Tuesday afternoon. Do not expect last minute help or question answering via email.
* Students cannot assume a solution to their problem is created by simply sending an email. Standards for performance always apply and direct communication is absolutely necessary.
* Do not submit work via email. Teachers do not grade from email, so time stamps of draft work are irrelevant. Submission to appropriate area in Schoology is required for full/late credit. Very few exceptions are made with AAC team approval.
* Do not request feedback via email, most especially the day of a deadline. Feedback and tutoring are provided in-person during tutorials.

**QR Code Signature**

Once you and your parents/guardians have thoroughly read the syllabus, please scan the QR code below and complete the Microsoft Form acknowledging that you understand the expectations and policies of our classroom.

