



English I PAP STEM Syllabus 2020-2021

Instructor: Chrystal Smith
Conference: 9:19-10:05
Tutorials: M, T, Th 2:45-3:15
Email: csmith@dickinsonisd.org
EOC Exam: April 2021
AP Mock Exam: May 2021

Course Length:
1 year (2 semesters)

Phone: 281-229-6497

I. Course Description

English I Pre-AP (PAP) STEM is designed for highly motivated students* who are preparing to take the AP courses offered during their junior and senior years. English I Pre-AP emphasizes a wealth of reading material that begins with assigned summer reading selection(s) and continues throughout the year with class study of novels, short stories, dramas, poetry, and essays that span various time periods and subject areas. Concurrently, students pursue a critical evaluation of the literature through discussion and analysis activities as well as written compositions of various purposes and modes. Grammar will be taught as lessons incorporated into the writing process throughout the course. College-level language and literature concepts targeted by the AP program and the PAP End-of-Course Exam are emphasized. In addition, students will complete a challenging study of rhetoric and vocabulary development.

***NOTE:** Students in this course must have received a **B in 8th grade English** and a **passing score on the STAAR Reading and Writing tests**.

II. Expectations

My responsibilities **as your teacher** are to (1) train you to be a strong reader and writer to be successful at a college level; (2) provide a safe environment for you to learn; (3) encourage you and treat you respect each day; and (4) work hard and not give up on you!

Your responsibilities **as a student** are to (1) come prepared and expecting to learn EVERY day; (2) ask questions when you need help (and offer help when you can give it); (3) show kindness and respect to your fellow students and the teacher; and (4) work hard and don't give up!

*In addition, students are expected to follow all rules as stated in the Student Code of Conduct. The campus will follow The Safe, Civil and Productive Initiative. Teachers will explain how students are to do the following in his/her classroom:

Conversation

Help

Activity

Movement

Participation

Success

III. GRADES

***All work must be completed in blue or black ink**

Daily work/Quizzes/Formative Assessment 40%

Tests/Essays/Projects/Summative Assessment 60%

***Semester grades are determined using the nine-week averages and the semester/final exam.**

1st nine week average 45%

2nd nine week average 45%

Semester Exam 10%

IV. HOMEWORK

Students may have homework either to study for an upcoming quiz/test, finish an assignment, or read. Students will be reading often and analyzing pieces of literature from the literature book or class novels. We will have several areas of study occurring simultaneously.

Cheating Notice: Turning in the same work as someone else or allowing someone else to use your work to copy or even copying work from another “author” and putting your name on it (plagiarizing) are all acts of **cheating** and are NOT ACCEPTABLE behaviors in this course. Each infraction will be disciplined; cheating two or more times may result in removal from the course. Each cheating infraction will result in a 1) zero for the assignment (minor and major assignments); 2) parent phone call; and 3) written referral to the assistant principal’s office.

V. LATE WORK & MAKEUP WORK:

Students are expected to submit all assignments by the due date and time established. The late work policy imposed will be: 1 day late - 30 points off, 2 days late - 50 points off and a 0 will be recorded on day 3. Major grades such as essays/projects/summative assessments may be given a due date window (i.e. Tues-Wed). Major work turned in after the window will be accepted late with a 30 point deduction and only within the same grading period (3 week progress) it was assigned.

Makeup Work is available to all students: If you are absent from class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what assignments and notes you missed. Remember: when you turn in any make up work, be sure to tell me that you were absent so that I do not accidentally count it late and take points off! Many students participate in several extracurricular activities that can cause an absence from the classroom, therefore all students are required to submit any late work and label it in the appropriate manner.

VI. Required Materials

You will need with you every day:

- 1) hand sanitizer
- 2) 3-4 packs of 100 **3X5 sized** index cards (lined, unlined, colored or white—NOT GRAPH)
- 3) pens (blue/black ink)
- 4) tissues
- 5) colored markers
- 6) 3 packages of notebook paper
- 7) A four pack of multicolored highlighters
- 8) post it notes
- 9) additionally, each period is asked to bring one extra supply to be kept in the classroom and shared by everyone: period ____ = _____

VII. OUTSIDE READING

Your students should be reading **EVERY NIGHT** at home to build their vocabulary and comprehension skills over the course of the next four years prior to the AP test(s) and entering college. Additionally, students may be required to read self-selected novels and log their pages read. ***Regular reading is the most effective path to being competitive in college and beyond.***

*For the novels we read in class, students will be expected to purchase their own copy and should NOT use SparkNotes or anything similar to substitute reading class assignments. Disciplinary action may be taken and/or repeated use may be grounds for removal from the course. Also, listening to CD's rather than reading is considered cheating and NOT conducive to building reading skills necessary for the AP exam. Students who avoid reading will not finish the year prepared for 10th grade and will not be successful on the EOC/PAP exams. Daily reading is just that important!

Mandatory novels for this course- These novels will need to be purchased to use in class

The Pearl	To Kill a Mockingbird
Oedipus	Macbeth
Rebecca	

Novels of choice

We will be conducting two book clubs during the year. One will be completed in the fall semester and one will be completed in the spring. The students will be asked to choose one book from each list of acceptable books. The student will be expected to read the book during reading time as well as at home in order to complete the final projects. Students will be expected to borrow the book if available from the teacher, the library, or to purchase their own copy.

Dystopian Books: Fahrenheit 451, The Uglies, Delirium, The Selection, Unwind, or The Program.

Social Justice Books: The Hate You Give, Girls With Sharp Sticks, Dear Martin, Allegedly, Monday's Not Coming, or Just Mercy.

VIII. STEM Projects

All STEM students will be required to complete a couple of projects outside of the classroom this school year. The first project is an interdisciplinary project that will earn them grades in all four core classes. This project is a year long project that is broken into two by semester. The second project that the students will complete is called the TPSP. The students will be given a couple of choices concerning the topic, complete the project completely, and participate in the school showcase. Both of these projects will earn students major and daily grades throughout the process.

IX. Special Notes

- Parents, we welcome hearing from you and encourage your active involvement in your child's education. Please note that ninth grade is a HUGE adjustment for children. Frequently, ninth graders try to do too many things at one time and find that their grades suffer. Also, daily support and encouragement from parents goes a long way in helping your child through this challenging year.
- Be aware that Pre-AP classes are **considerably more difficult** than regular classes and that more is expected of the learner. For many intelligent students, learning came easy in lower grades with little effort. They may not have worked as hard as they will in high school advanced classes to earn an A or a B.

- A student may be exited from the Pre-AP English program at the end of the first official grading period. Students who are failing at the end of the first 9 weeks with a 65 or below will be moved to the respective academic course. Students with a 65-69 **MAY** remain in the course with teacher discretion. Any student who fails a PAP/AP course with a grade below 70 for the first semester, will be removed from the course at the end of the semester.
- The STAAR (EOC) test will be given in April 2021.. Our Mock AP EOC exam will occur in May 2021 and count as the semester exam. It is imperative that students are present for both tests. Please mark your calendars accordingly.
- If you (parent/guardian/student) would like reminders about important events, sign up for notifications through Remind101! This will be sent out via email for your convenience.

CELL PHONES

In compliance with the Dickinson High School policy on cell phones, students may not have a cell phone at their desk or on their person during class time. Additionally, phones should be placed on silent or airplane mode to prevent distractions during lessons. Before the bell to begin class rings all cell phones will be turned into the cell phone holder that corresponds to the students seat number. Attendance will be taken based on this system. Non-compliance issues with this policy will follow the code of conduct for Dickinson High School.

Please check one box to indicate whether your student has a cell phone.

☐

Yes, my student has a cell phone

☐

No, my student does not have a cell phone

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the 2020-2021 cell phone policy .

Parent/Legal Gaurdian: _____

Student: _____

Please sign and return by Monday, September 14, 2020

Parents/Guardians and Students,

Please sign and date this page to confirm that you have read and understand the English I PAP STEM Syllabus.

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent E-mail: _____

Parent Phone #(s):

Please note anything else you would like me to know: _____
