

BRITISH LITERATURE



Class Syllabus

This syllabus is available on the class website:

schockenglish.weebly.com

Bookmark it! Favorite it! Use this website weekly / daily for the class calendar, useful files and links, and MEAL Plan information.

Introduction

Welcome back to school for another year of awesomeness, learning, and English-y stuff! 😊 These stapled sheets of paper in front of your face are not ordinary sheets of paper! No, no—this syllabus is a road map for success in Mr. Schock’s class. This syllabus explains what we’re doing in this class throughout the year, our classroom rules, how grading will work this year, and other important information that you’d be absolutely silly not to keep in mind as we start off this year the right way!

P.S.: Please have your parent/guardian sign the last page. Grades will not be entered until this is signed!

Class Philosophy

Language and storytelling help us better understand other people, our world, and ourselves—so this English class focuses on perception, philosophy, and making sense of this crazy human life of ours.

This is a class where we talk, listen, and think with an open and questioning mind.

Class Objectives



Language

Use grammar conventions and language rules to communicate effectively with other people.



Reading

Improve our reading skills so we can better understand others and the world around us.



Writing

Sharpen our writing skills so we can organize our thoughts and feelings and express them fully.



Speaking

Overcome anxieties and fears of public speaking and hone our voices, so we can be heard.



Prep

Prepare ourselves for our futures through planning and honing our life skills.

CLASS POLICIES

Our classroom culture:

- ❖ **Be respectful to Mr. Schock** – listen while he is speaking, no bad attitude
- ❖ **Be respectful to each other** – wait to speak, keep voices at 6 and not 100
- ❖ **Be respectful to yourself** – if it's hard, you're learning! There's no "perfect"
- ❖ **Use inclusive language**—Zero tolerance for rude or crude marks about race, sex, sexuality, religion, etc., even if it's directed at no one in particular
- ❖ **Use appropriate language** – this includes body language! Even if you don't think a word is bad, if Mr. Schock says it's inappropriate, find other words
- ❖ **Go to Mr. Schock if there's a problem** – You don't have to duel the person!

Consequences:

- ❖ Mr. Schock will decide. Sometimes he'll meet with you and decide with you.
- ❖ If it affects Mr. Schock, the consequence helps Mr. Schock.
- ❖ If it affects a classmate, the consequence helps the classmate(s).
- ❖ Repeat offenses may result in calls home, detention, long-term consequences.
- ❖ Sometimes you won't feel it's "fair." People are different, so sometimes consequences will be different. It's all on a case-by-case basis.

Late Work Policy

Here is the late policy for daily work and MEAL Courses:

- ❖ An assignment is due the day it is assigned
- ❖ You have 1 week from that assign/due date to hand it in for complete credit
- ❖ 2nd week late: You can turn in the assignment for up to 80% credit (-20% for late)
- ❖ 3rd week or more late: You can turn it in and receive half credit (50%)—but you will only receive points if the assignment is complete (otherwise it will remain Incomplete)

Here is the late policy for projects, reading points, and book discussions:

- Due the day it is assigned (you can turn in projects and reading points early and can start reading your book/chapters as soon as the book is assigned)
- One day late: You can turn it in one day after the due date for up to 80% credit (-20% for late)
- More than a week late: Receive half credit (50%) if it is complete; otherwise remains Incomplete

If you have an excused absence the day something was assigned/due, you will receive at least one extra day to turn in the assignment. This does not apply to reading points and projects submitted online. Always talk with Mr. Schock *before* if you want better results. He's more understanding if you are upfront with him about the issue and communicate it right away rather than wait. Trust me.

CLASS RULES

- Place your phone in one of the hanging pockets by the door when you enter the classroom. If you use your phone in class without permission, the phone may be held until the end of class or until the end of the school day.
- Please be in your seat when the bell rings. Once the bell has rung, class has started.
- Only one student in a seat at a time: this includes the armchair and beanbag chair.
- We will try to have Quiet Time most days during the school year. Quiet Time is a 5 min. period that starts right after Mr. Schock has shared the intro quote or video. During quiet time, please refrain from talking or using electronic devices, so others can have a moment of rest before class starts. You may read if you choose.
- Please keep your shoes on during class at all times.
- You need Mr. Schock's permission to open a window in the classroom or turn off/on the air conditioner.
- Return any and all books or items you borrow from Mr. Schock. If you take something and misplace it or damage it, you can expect to be asked to compensate for the lost item.
- Please remain in your seat until the exit bell rings. Do not stand by the door—you'll make it to your next class on time, no worries. ;)

CLASS ROUTINE

- Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays we learn class content.
- Tuesdays and Fridays are work days for their MEAL Plan Courses or other class work.

❖ **Daily schedule** (some days may differ from this):

1. Arrive in the classroom before the bell with all your supplies: The book we're reading as a class, writing utensils, folder, etc.
2. Be in your seat when the bell rings.
3. Mr. Schock shares the daily quote / video.
4. Quiet Time for the next five minutes, so you can use this time to just relax, rest your eyes for a bit, read, or do some reflecting.
5. Mr. Schock reminds the class of what was due this class day, and at this time you can hand in work if you need to.
6. Mr. Schock previews the schedule for the day.
7. Mr. Schock guides the class through the day's lesson (unless it's a work day).
8. Remain seated until the bell rings, and then make sure to take all of your belongings with you when you do leave. 😊
9. Have a nice rest of your day!

GRADING

Grading Categories

This class is divided into two semesters worth 1,000 points each. Each semester is divided into two midterms (based on length of quarters when we had them) worth 450 points each plus a final exam worth 100 points (10% of semester).

❖ Daily Points

- 100 points for daily assignments relating to class content and class books.
- 50 points for quizzes on that class material.
- *150 points per midterm, 300 per semester (30%).*

❖ MEAL Plan

- 50 points for weekly assignments (10 participation points x 5 weeks)
- 50 points for MEAL quiz on the sixth week.
- *100 points per midterm, 200 per semester (20%).*

❖ Major Project

- 100 points for a big paper, presentation, or speech.
- *100 points per midterm, 200 per semester (20%).*

❖ Reading Points

- Each student needs to read 1 book at grade level by designated date each midterm
- Reading points can be earned through AR quiz (via class website link) or book review.
- Review length: 3 paragraphs for 7-8th grade, 4 paragraphs for 9-10th, 5 paragraphs 11-12th.
- *100 points per midterm, 200 per semester (20%).*

❖ Semester Final

- Written exam that is a combination of the class content quizzes and two MEAL quizzes the student had previously taken that semester.
- *100 points per semester (10%).*

Reading point due dates this year:

S1.A: **October 17th**

S1.B: **December 17th**

S2.A: **March 1st**

S2.B: **May 10th**

Zero-Tolerance for Cheating and Plagiarism

The first time a student cheats in my class, they will receive an automatic 0 on whatever the assignment is, and their parent/guardian will receive a phone call from Mr. Schock. The second time, there will be detention and consideration of other long-term consequences. Don't attempt to cheat in this class. Cheating is theft and a refusal to learn. Cheating consists of copying another person's work or copying/pasting from someone else. It's still plagiarism if you put it in the citation but there's large chunks in your paper that haven't been cited correctly. When you're unsure how to do something, you need to speak up and ask Mr. Schock. "I didn't know" will not be an excuse. You have been warned.

MEAL PLAN

This year, Mr. Schock is trying something new with how English class is set up.

It's called the **My English Academic Lane Plan... The MEAL Plan.**

For students grades 9-12, 20% of the grade now comes from a weekly Course that the student chooses, along with Mr. Schock, to suit their own unique interests, strengths, and educational needs.

Early each quarter (so twice a semester), the student will meet with Mr. Schock and discuss their MEAL Plan options. The student will sign up for one of the Courses.

Students will then learn from notes and videos about the Course material and, each week for five weeks, complete a practice assignment due on Tuesday. Students can choose which day they want to work on their MEAL Plan, as long as their practice is in their English folder or printed/hand-written in the hand-in tray by Tuesday.

After five weeks of learning and practicing the content, students complete an exam on the sixth week. The exams vary from traditional tests to written assessments completed in advance to other methods of measuring the student's learning.

Each of the five weekly practice assignments is worth 10 points and is graded by participation, so as long as the student puts forward an effort, they will receive credit. The exam is worth 50 points.

That's 100 points per quarter (200 per semester) for students working on subjects more tailored for their specific educational goals.

The semester final will include content covered as a whole class as well as a section relating to each student's Courses. For example, everyone in 9th grade may have questions relating to *Animal Farm* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* on their final, but each student will have a slightly different test based on what Course they worked on earlier (one might have grammar and reading comprehension questions, and another might have career research and creative writing questions).

For a complete menu of all available Courses, please use the MEAL Menu located on the class website: [**schockenglish.weebly.com**](http://schockenglish.weebly.com)

YEAR PLAN

Semester 1

Quarter 1: Early British Literature

- Skill:
 - Writing / delivering speeches
- Reading:
 - KJV Bible
 - *Beowulf*
 - Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*
- Major project:
 - Inform speeches

Quarter 2: Elizabeth, Restoration, Enlightenment

- Skill:
 - Writing style and voice
- Reading:
 - Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
 - John Dryden's poetry
 - Swift's "A Modest Proposal"
 - Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*
 - Milton's *Paradise Lost*
- Major project:
 - Shakespearean rewrite

Semester 2

Quarter 3: British Romanticism

- Skill:
 - Self-reflection and journaling
- Reading:
 - Shelley's *Frankenstein*
 - Blake's *Songs of Innocence/Exp.*
 - William Wordsworth's poetry
 - Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner*
 - Percy Bysshe Shelley's poetry
- Major project:
 - Experiences journal

Quarter 4: Modern British Literature

- Skill:
 - Self-reflection and personality inventories
- Reading:
 - Orwell's *1984*
 - Robert Burns's poetry
 - Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poetry
 - Robert Browning's poetry
 - "Dover Beach" / "Sea of Faith"
 - Lewis Carroll's poetry
 - William Butler Yeats's poetry
- Major project:
 - Warning letters

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Each week, usually on Fridays, Mr. Schock will send out an email to parents. This email will contain a newsletter explaining what's coming up the following week, so parents always know about due dates and what their student is learning in school. If you have an email address you check at least once a week, Mr. Schock highly encourages you to sign up for the email newsletter.

Even if you signed up for the newsletter last year, please write down your current email, so Mr. Schock is certain he has an up-to-date version of everyone's information. Please read through the checkboxes below, check what applies, and fill out any information as needed. Much appreciated!

- I am a parent/guardian and would like to sign up for the parent newsletter.**

Current email address: _____

- I am a parent/guardian who does not use email.** I would like a printed copy of the newsletter each week. (If you select this, Mr. Schock will send a printed copy of the newsletter home with your student each week... To save on paper, please only select this if you don't use email).
- I am a student and would like to sign up for the parent newsletter**, so I can be reminded of what assignments are due the next upcoming week and what I'll miss if I'm going to be gone.

Student school email address: _____

LET'S GET STARTED!

After reading through this syllabus with your parent/guardian, all that's left is for you and your parent/guardian to sign the syllabus. This is Mr. Schock's way of making sure you've read the syllabus, understand what it says, and agree to follow it. Please show this signed page to Mr. Schock for some points.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____