

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe." - Anatole France

Purposes

Senior English is designed to:

- Provide a sound foundation for college literature courses and for composition at a post-high school level.
- Promote cultural literacy, introducing you to stories and concepts that have helped define us as a people.
- Explore what has motivated – and continues to motivate – people to do the things they do.

Course Objectives

The main goal of this class is to promote individualized instruction and learning, allowing the student to assume the responsibility for his or her education. With this goal in mind, students will:

- Study and gain knowledge of the major British literary movements throughout history, including Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, Renaissance, Restoration, Romantic, Victorian, Modern, and Post-Modern
- Independently analyze, interpret, and evaluate the literature they encounter by reading texts carefully, directing particular attention to details that contribute to coherent group and whole-class discussions
- Respond personally and reflectively to a range of ideas, developing good skills of literary discussion
- Practice the writing process, focusing specifically on the Five Canons of Rhetoric (Invention, Arrangement, Style, Memory, and Delivery) and the Four Fundamental Ways to Relate to Text (Text-to-Self, Text-to-Itself, Text-to-Text, and Text-to-World) in order to enter the world of educated adults
- Apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to all assignments and discussions
- Strengthen skills in composition through conventional skills such as spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure within various types of texts

Student Expectations

The environment and atmosphere of this class is entirely dependent upon the people who are in it. You are nearly adults, if not already, and will be treated as such. Because of this, there are some basic issues dealing with respect and responsibility upon which we will all focus. With this in mind, students are expected to:

- Attend class every day, barring illness or emergency
- Come to class prepared, which consists of having the correct materials and assigned work
- Observe all rules within the classroom
- Cooperate with the instructor in regards to instruction, activities, and enforcement of class expectations
- Participate in daily assignments, out-of-class reading and writing, group discussions, class discussions, cooperative learning activities, in-class writing workshops, independent and group projects, and anything promoting active preparation for class
- Work hard and be nice

Required Materials

On a daily basis, you can expect to need loose-leaf paper (college-ruled), pens/pencils, and personal reading material. I maintain a classroom set of textbooks; however, you can check out your own textbook to keep at home as needed.

Grading Policies & the Senior Problem

Teaching seniors is a double-edged sword. On one hand, there is the unique joy of being a part of seniors' last year of public school, and helping them start their "real" lives. On the other hand is the frustration and sorrow when seniors fall apart and "miss their exit." Please be assured that it is my goal to see each and every one of you receive your diploma this May – but also be assured that I will not *give* you a passing grade. Whether your final grade is an A or an F, it will be the grade *you've* earned. No one wants you to survive thirteen years of school only to falter at the end, and I will make every reasonable concession to promote your success, but ultimately your fate – your graduation eligibility – is in your hands.

If you do not want to graduate, do not turn in your work. You will not pass senior English on the basis of your charm, personality, athletic or artistic prowess, or ability to weep on command. You will pass senior English on the basis of your consistency of effort, your engagement with the material and with the class, and the quality of the work you produce.

Grade Scale: Below is the grade scale as it is currently set. It may be changed to more accurately reflect student progress and achievement; any changes will be publicized to the affected classes.

Formal Writing & Projects	35%
Tests and Quizzes	25%
Popcorn Points	15%
Practice (Classwork/Homework)	25%

I do not average quarter grades together to find the semester grade; rather, your semester grade is based on the total points earned throughout both terms and on your semester final score.

Late Work: It is *always* in your best interest to discuss problems with me before the due date, so that we can arrange an accommodation for you. As a senior, it is particularly important that you take responsibility for your work/school/extracurricular/social schedule, and that you are accountable for your work and your deadlines. Late work will be accepted for a deduction of 25% credit, up to one week late, unless otherwise arranged with me. Please, for your own sake, do not wait until the last week of a term before asking what you are missing and whether you can turn it in. The answer is no – if you wanted to turn it in, you should have done so when it was due. This year, you are becoming an adult and must take responsibility for your actions as well as your inactions.

Extra Credit: I do not offer individual extra credit to students who wish to improve their grade at the end of a term. I periodically offer extra credit opportunities to the entire class. Students may earn up to 35 points extra credit each semester by bringing in Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and/or disinfectant wipes (Lysol/Clorox) to promote a healthy classroom.

Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

The goal of Nampa Schools is to establish a challenging learning environment and to produce life-long learners. Therefore, all work submitted by a student is expected to be the result of that student's ideas and efforts; when the work is not, the student has engaged in academic dishonesty.

Cheating, including plagiarism, on ANY assignment, is automatically assigned a failing grade of 0% for the offending piece or pieces. In addition, the matter may be brought to the attention of other school authorities concerning possible further action, such as suspension of denial/forfeiture of credit. A student who willfully supplies materials to another student for copying is considered subject to the same penalties.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Taking material directly from an online or print source and claiming it as your own
- Copying information with only minor change in wording, even with acknowledgement
- Failing to properly credit a source both in-text and using a full Works Cited sheet
- Incorrect citations that cause an inability to track down a source
- Submitting someone else's work as your own, including work that has been purchased
- Paraphrasing of someone else's work or ideas without acknowledgement

Come to class prepared, All students are expected to complete assignments independently, unless otherwise specified by the teacher. On assignments where students are permitted to work with a partner, it is expected that they will be working together to meet each objective; splitting/dividing up the work and copying each others' halves is considered cheating.

Popcorn Points

In addition to the standard senior English curriculum material, you will also be earning Popcorn Points independently of the classroom setting. The literature of the cinema – that is, movies – is an increasingly central element of our cultural identity. Many colleges offer courses in “Film as Literature”; this is an abbreviated version of such a course. The purpose of this project is to give you the opportunity to experience cinematic literature that you may have missed, either because the movie was released long before you were born or because it never crossed your entertainment radar. I highly encourage you to get together with other students and organize “movie nights” – films are always more fun with friends! I will also be showing movies for Popcorn Points every two weeks to accommodate students without the ability to play movies at home. You will be responsible for choosing and watching one movie every two weeks, journaling a response to each movie, and participating in class discussions about the movies you have been watching. This is intended to enrich students’ cultural literacy in preparation for adulthood.

Electronic Communication

Email: I strongly encourage students to email me with questions at kbaker@nsd131.org or mrsbaker06@gmail.com. The nsd131 email is best on weekdays from 7AM-5PM; the gmail account is better at night or on weekends.

Website: I also maintain a class website. It can be accessed at www.mrsbaker.net and includes daily agendas (what you missed), assignments, handouts, and helpful information. I encourage parents to visit this website as well to keep up with what is taking place in our class.

Facebook: I maintain a Facebook account and will accept student Friend Requests; I do not initiate Facebook relationships with students, out of respect for their right to a personal life. Facebook can be an extremely useful communication tool, especially late at night or over long weekends, when I am less likely to access my school email account. I occasionally use this account to share fun, informative, and/or helpful materials that I find online. I encourage all students to utilize the full range of security settings to protect themselves and their privacy when online.

Assignments: If you need to email an assignment to me, please save it in one of the following file formats: .doc, .docx, .ppt, .pptx, .rtf, or .pdf. I cannot open Open Office or WordPerfect files. When I receive your assignment, I will reply to let you know that it arrived safely. If you do not receive an email receipt, you should assume that something went wrong and I did not receive the email. If you simply need me to print a file for you, you can also bring it in on a flash drive and print it using our student computer in the classroom. It is generally best to email attachments to me at the gmail account, as I have found they sometimes they get lost when sent to the school’s email account.

Gradebook: All grades are posted in PowerSchool. You can request your PowerSchool username and password from the office.

As with any teacher-student interaction, if our electronic communication via email, Facebook, or any other media causes me concern for your safety or well-being, I have a professional and personal obligation to intervene on your behalf.

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

I have read and understood the syllabus for Mrs. Baker’s senior English class. I agree to do my best to succeed in this course, and to do nothing that will impede others’ success.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Student: The below must be signed by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult (21 or older) who will vouch for you in this contract.

Adult Witness Name: _____ Relationship: _____

I have read and understood this syllabus, and agree to support the above-signed student in his/her efforts to successfully complete this course.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Student Email, if applicable: _____

Adult Witness Email, if applicable: _____