

Burnaby North Secondary School English Studies 12 Course Outline

English Studies 12 is required for graduation. The objectives of this class are for students to

- **think** and **read** critically and independently, and to gain appreciation for a variety of genres of literature (essays, novels, drama, short fiction, and poetry)
- evaluate the accuracy and meaning of media and text
- think critically, creatively, and reflectively to analyze ideas within, between, and beyond texts, and understand how different features of texts (the “parts”) contribute to the “whole”
- construct meaningful personal connections between self, text, and world
- respond to text in personal, critical, and creative ways, and transform information to create original texts
- develop effective **written communication** skills, and adapt writing style and tone to audience and purpose through correct grammar, and precise syntax, phrasing and diction
- respectfully exchange ideas and viewpoints from diverse perspectives to build shared understanding and extend thinking, and **speak** effectively and precisely in communicating ideas (critically and creatively)
- recognize and appreciate the role of story, narrative, and oral tradition in expressing First Peoples perspectives, values, beliefs, and points of view

For more information, see: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/english-language-arts/12/english-studies>

This class will include the study of the following (not necessarily in this order):

- **paragraph and essay writing** (literary / expository, compare/contrast, persuasive/argumentative, personal essay, narrative)
- **Essays and Short Fiction**
- **Drama** (Shakespeare)
- **Novel** – a class study of a single novel, and study in literature circles. From a selection of novels (to be announced) that may include options such as *1984*; *The Poisonwood Bible*; *Bless me, Ultima*; *The Kiterunner*, *Medicine Walk*, *All the Light We Cannot See*, or others
- **Poetry** -- selections

In Grade 12, it is expected that you can express yourself in grammatically correct sentences. If you have significant difficulty with **English grammar**, this will affect your progress. Ask me for extra help and resources (see me during Flex time). You may also wish to do some extra practice by referring to resources I post on MS Teams and online grammar resources such as: “English Grammar Comnet” (<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>)

Evaluation:

- Your grade will be determined from your proficiency in reading, speaking, and writing.
- Students cannot redo or rewrite tests/assignments (except in rare circumstances at the discretion of the teacher), but evaluation will be on-going, and the focus for evaluation will be on specific learning objectives, not just an accumulation of “points”. You will receive detailed feedback in the form of comments and rubrics, and this is more important than the number score.
- **The grading for this class will be cumulative in nature** – your report cards will *not* simply be averaged to calculate your final grade for the course. We become better writers over time with practice, so assessment of your work must take this into account in order to be accurate.
- I will not have conversations about *grades*/ percentages, but I am always happy to discuss your learning / progress (what you are doing well, and what you can improve)
- It is important to complete all assignments on time. If you hand in an assignment extremely late or after it has been already been handed back, you may not receive full credit, or may lose the opportunity to complete that particular assignment.

Comprehend and Connect (Writing and Reading):

In-class writing and tests **50%**

Many/most writing assignments will be completed **IN CLASS** (*unless* you are told otherwise).

Students who miss an in-class writing assignment need to make-up the assignment within a timely manner, or they may lose the opportunity to write that particular assignment. If you are ill, you must stay home (you can stay in touch via email and MS Teams), but you need to be responsible and find out what you missed and bring a note from a parent to verify the reason for your absence.

Create and communicate: **45%**

Assignments that may be completed in class or outside of class and that demonstrate or represent your critical and creative thinking. Some assignments may be submitted via MS Office Teams.

Engagement / Practice and Speaking / Discussion: **5%**

Assignments and activities that part of the process, and participation on MS Teams or in class discussion in order to show your knowledge. You will be expected to share your ideas with the group to contribute to the group knowledge of the class. You will be evaluated for your ability to speak clearly and effectively to communicate your ideas and respond to the ideas of others (“book club” reading groups, class discussion). Other assignments in the “create and communication” category may involve speaking/presenting as well).

Independent reading:

“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot.” (Stephen King)

Reading widely is the best way to improve your vocabulary and composition skills, and will help you in all of your subject areas (and it’s fun too!) Students are required to bring a silent reading book of their own to class every day, as each class will include 10-20 minutes of silent reading. If you have a library card, you can even borrow books electronically through the Burnaby Public Library by using the Libby app. When you finish a book, bring a new book to class. You must bring *novels* (not magazines or other reading material.) You will be asked to share your response to your reading through on-going independent reading assignments and conferences with your peers and the teacher.

Some tips on how to be successful in English 12

- You need to attend class and stay organized. This is not a class that you can complete from home, as much of the assessment/evaluation occurs during class. You cannot always “pick up what you missed” and hand it in later on your own schedule.
- You probably spend time studying for your other classes. To be successful in English Studies 12, you will need to spend time outside of class – this may mean reading texts/preparing for class, completing homework, or simply doing independent reading to improve your vocabulary/style or extra writing practice to improve your written communication skills.

*Students in Grade 12 have to write a provincial Literacy Assessment required for graduation (*not* tied to this course). For more information: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-12-literacy-assessment>

Contact me:

If you or your parents have any questions, please contact me at Bryn.Williams@burnabyschools.ca.
Williams

Extending the class online: Microsoft Office Teams and the class website

- **I keep a daily “Shape of the Day” post on Microsoft Office 365 Teams – check frequently to stay organized! for students to submit assignments completed on the computer.**

If you are away, check the “Shape of the Day” for a daily post explaining what we did in the class, as well as any readings or handouts. Many assignments will be written by hand in the classroom. However, some assignments are to be submitted on MS Office Teams -- these will be posted in the “Assignments” tab (but will also come up under the post for the day), and already formatted for you to complete.

- **If / when the school closes temporarily for in-person classes (as will happen in the first week of January), the class will move onto Microsoft Teams.**

*Make sure you check your school email, and you can see instructions for MS Office Teams on the school website at: <https://north.burnabyschools.ca/blog/2020/05/08/office-365-for-students-at-north/>

- Assignments submitted on MS Teams:

*Open the document on MS Teams, *edit* the document and submit it.

If you happen to be working first in a Word document, or even in googledocs, copy and paste your work *into* the document posted in “Assignments”.

Do not save a document as a PDF, and do not include links to googledocs.

- Photographs of your writing will ***not*** be accepted (they are really too hard to read!)
- Use size 12 font, double-spaced, in Times New Roman or Arial or Calibri.
- Put your first and last name and block at the top of the document

- Class time/ discussion on MS Teams:

We *may* also use MS Teams for video discussions, or “chat” book club discussions (one of the tabs on the left under “General”).

Remember that this platform is an extension of the classroom; Office Teams is a place where we do course work – it is not for casual conversations, and conversation must remain respectful and “professional”.

Example Course Schedule – subject to change at any time! (Flexibility is key!)

1. *The collision of self and society:*

- How can we fit into the world around us without losing ourselves?
- How can we find our “authentic” selves and achieve a life of value / meaning?

Selections from *Inside Stories III* and other anthologies, and a novel (George Orwell’s *1984*)

- How can our character forge our destiny?
- What kind of future are we writing for ourselves, and how can we find hope?

Content to know: Literary terms for short fiction

Skills focus: Formal literary responses (paragraphs and essays, synthesis essays), personal responses, argumentative writing, and narrative essay writing

2. *Life's Journey -- How do people find the right path in life, and how are they shaped by the journey?*

Texts: Literature Circles / Independent novels – a selection from novels such as *The Poisonwood Bible*, *Bless me Ultima*, *The Kite Runner*; *Medicine Walk*, others

Skills focus: Building academic “book club” conversations, listening and speaking, exploring a “big idea”
Literary responses (paragraphs, essays, synthesis writing)

3. *Triumph and Tragedy -- What drives us to greatness, or brings us to ruin?*

- What is the best and worst of human nature?

Texts: William Shakespeare’s *Othello*

Independent novel/reading, selections from poetry

Content to know: literary terms for fiction

Skills focus: Formal literary responses (paragraphs and essays, synthesis essays), personal responses, argumentative essays, and narrative essay, persuasive speaking

4. *The Art of Persuasion: Essay and creative writing*

- How do writers adapt style and voice to suit audience?
- How do writers use description, narration, argumentation, and persuasion to express an idea and engage the reader?
- How can we persuade other people to think and do what we want?

Texts: selections from anthologies

Content to know: literary terms for writing

Skills focus: Descriptive, expository, persuasive, argumentative, and narrative writing
Persuasive/argumentative speaking

5. *Poetry – How do we make language “sing”?*

- How does a poem mean, and what is a poem good for?
- How do poets use imagery and figurative language to capture a moment and express an emotion?
- How can we appreciate a poem, and still “unpack” its meaning? How can we read a poem without “tying it to a chair and beating it with a rubber hose”?

Content to know: literary terms for poetry

Skills focus: Literary responses (paragraphs, essays, synthesis writing), creative writing, presentations