

Eighth-Grade English, Part 2

Syllabus



Course Description

The theme of this course is **Humans and Their Environment: How Our World Shapes Us**. In this class, the word *environment* means the places we live and the situations we face in life.

- How do human actions impact the environment?
- How do people adapt to diverse environments?

The attribute for this course is **resilience**. You will be asked to respond to questions in your study guide about resilience and how it applies to the course and to your own life throughout the course. These questions are not tested on the module quizzes, but the study guide does count toward your grade. It is a nice place for you to record your thinking about this attribute so you can incorporate it into your own life during the course.

Prerequisites

It is recommended, but not required, that students take Eighth-Grade English, Part 1 prior to taking this course.

Course Materials and Technology

Students must buy these materials and technology to complete the course:

Course Text:

- Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. **ISBN-13: 9780375842207** (ISBN-10: 0375842209).

Course Outcomes

As students complete the course assignments, they will increase their knowledge, improve a 21st-century skill, and develop an attribute. **NOTE:** students will NOT earn a micro-credential in this course, the they will still have the opportunity to learn a new skill and a new attribute.



Knowledge: Eighth-Grade English, Part 2

In this course, *knowledge* refers to the subject matter and content students will learn while completing the readings, practices, quizzes, and assignments.

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Summarize and compare texts in different mediums.
2. Analyze the narrator in a variety of texts.
3. Compare fictional and historical accounts of events.
4. Analyze different points of view.
5. Identify different types of irony.
6. Write an argumentative essay.



21st-Century Skill: Constructing Arguments

As students complete this course's assignments, they will gain skills in *Constructing Arguments*. This skill is part of *Critical Thinking*. Students will have opportunities to craft arguments, using different points of view, supported with evidence, to communicate. Students will also learn about the course novel's themes, characterization, setting, and more through writing, responding, and building arguments.



Attribute: Resilience

This course focuses on developing the attribute of *resilience* in the context of literature. Surviving World War II was quite a exercise in resilience. Students will learn about this important attribute and how to apply in in their own lives. In addition, students will see how characters in the novel and in a variety of short stories exemplify resilience and an important characteristic of the human spirit.



Grading and Assignments

The letter grade in this course will be based on these assignments and exams.

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
Study Guides	Computer-Graded	30%

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
Written Assignments + Application Projects	Teacher-Graded	35%
Module Quizzes	Computer-Graded	15%
Midcourse Quiz + Final Exam	Computer-Graded	20%

Assignments and Exams

Due Dates

The due dates in the course are only suggestions to help the students pace themselves. You do *not* need to complete assignments, quizzes, and exams by the due date set in the course.

Study Guides

Study guides are provided for each module. They will help students focus on the important concepts needed to be successful in this course and in life. Study guides will be due in each module and points will be awarded upon submission.

Application Projects

Application projects give the students opportunities to apply the concepts they have learned to real-life situations, scenarios, and events. They also evaluate the students' mastery of the Skill for the course.

Module Quizzes

Each quiz is open-book/note and untimed. They consist entirely of multiple-choice questions and come directly from the lesson material and the videos.

Midcourse Quiz

This computer-graded quiz covers the material up to the midcourse quiz. The questions on the midcourse quiz are similar in format to the questions on the final exam.

Final Exam

The final exam covers all course content.

Course Grade

The letter grade will be calculated according to these percentages.

Percent to Letter Grade Calculation	
A	100%–93%
A–	<93%–90%
B+	<90%–87%
B	<87%–83%
B–	<83%–80%
C+	<80%–77%
C	<77%–73%
C–	<73%–70%
D+	<70%–67%
D	<67%–63%
D–	<63%–60%
F (fail)	<60%–0%