



Syllabus

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What You Should Already Know

You should have completed Eighth-Grade English 1 (ENGL 35) or its equivalent before you take this course. The writing assignments in the foundation course will help prepare you for more advanced work.

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply new vocabulary words to your reading and writing.
2. Write your own persuasive letter, argumentative essay, journal entries, and novel chapter.
3. Analyze literature by reading an epic adventure and a novel and completing additional recreational reading.
4. Identify the elements of the research process and incorporate them into your own research paper.

Course Materials

Most of the reading you do in this course will be found online within the course. However, you will need to have a copy of the novel *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli. This novel was published in 2000 and should not be hard to find. You may check this book out at your local library or purchase a copy of it from a bookstore.

Any first person references (I, me, my, etc.) in the course content refer to the author of the course, not your instructor.

Assignments

Eighth-Grade English 2 consists of six units. Each unit is made up of these sections: vocabulary, epic adventure, writing a research paper, novel study, journal entry, and reading log. You will be expected to complete the individual lessons in order, as each section builds upon the one before it.

Self Checks

Throughout each unit, you will be expected to answer several questions about the lesson that you have just finished. These questions are not graded, but correctly answering them will help you prepare for the unit assignments and the final exam.

Unit Assignments

At the end of each unit, you will answer about 30 questions. These types of questions are designed to help you apply and analyze the things you have learned. The questions will deal with your vocabulary words, *Adventures of Ulysses*, research methods, aspects of your novel study, and other concepts from each unit. The number of questions you answer correctly will determine your grade for the corresponding unit.

In addition, you will answer cumulative review questions. Cumulative reviews are questions that cover material from all previous units. Cumulative Review 1 covers material found in units 1 through 4; Cumulative Review 2 covers material found in units 1 through 6. These reviews will make up a small percentage of your grade for the course, but they should be taken seriously. They help you remember information from the units so that you are better prepared for the final exam. Your scores on the cumulative reviews are a good indication of how you will perform on the final. If you find yourself struggling with the questions in the reviews, you may want to take the time to go back through the material as many times as necessary to feel confident for the final exam.

Portfolio Assignments

For your unit portfolios, you will finish the required writing assignments and then turn them in electronically for grading. This compilation of work and the score you receive from the instructor will determine your grade for these assignments.

Don't save all your writing until you get to the portfolio submission sections. The course is designed so you will have the assignments completed before you get to the submission point. This is a way for me to give personalized feedback to improve your writing skills.

Exams

The final exam consists of 75 questions. It will consist of questions about the following:

- Vocabulary words—definitions discussed in each unit
- *The Adventures of Ulysses*
- Research methods
- Persuasive and argumentative strategies
- *Stargirl*

The final exam is worth 20 percent of your grade.

Grading

Your final grade will be a combination of the following:

- the combined average of all unit quizzes and cumulative reviews (30 percent of your total grade)
- instructor-graded portfolio assignments (50 percent of your total grade)
- the completion of a final exam (20 percent of your total grade)

The following chart shows how much each portfolio assignment is worth.

Unit 1 Portfolio	
5 points	Reading Log
10 points	Journal Entry #1
10 points	Research Interview
25 total points	

Unit 2 Portfolio	
75 points	Persuasive Letter
25 points	Oral Presentation

Unit 2 Portfolio	
5 points	Reading Log
10 points	Journal Entry #2
115 total points	

Unit 3 Portfolio	
5 points	Reading Log
10 points	Journal Entry #3
10 points	Research Paper Outline
70 points	Research Paper Rough Draft
95 total points	

Unit 4 Portfolio	
5 points	Reading Log
10 points	Journal Entry #4
75 points	Argumentative Essay
90 total points	

Unit 5 Portfolio	
5 points	Reading Log
10 points	Journal Entry #5
15 total points	

Unit 6 Portfolio	
5 points	Reading Log
10 points	Journal Entry #6
100 points	Research Paper Final Draft
75 points	<i>Stargirl</i> Missing Chapter

Unit 6 Portfolio
190 total points

530 combined points for all portfolios.

Total Grade Breakdown

Assignment	Percent of Grade
Unit 1 Assignment	4%
Unit 1 Portfolio	3%
Unit 2 Assignment	4%
Unit 2 Portfolio	10%
Unit 3 Assignment	4%
Unit 3 Portfolio	8%
Unit 4 Assignment	4%
Unit 4 Portfolio	8%
Cumulative Review 1	3%
Unit 5 Assignment	4%
Unit 5 Portfolio	2%
Unit 6 Assignment	4%
Unit 6 Portfolio	19%
Cumulative Review 2	3%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale	
A	100–93
A–	92–90
B+	89–87
B	86–83
B–	82–80
C+	79–77

Grading Scale	
C	76–73
C–	72–70
D+	69–67
D	66–63
D–	62–60
E (fail)	59 or below