

Adv. Honors English I: 2026–2027 Syllabus

Course Description

Advanced Honors English I teaches students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. Required reading will include novels, short stories, speeches, plays, and poetry. Students will also learn to write in various modes and strengthen their grammar and vocabulary skills. The curriculum is designed around reading, writing, and analyzing texts, following the traditional freshman English curriculum while preparing students for AP-level English.

Assigned Textbooks

I will assign the following textbook for you to use throughout the year. I will let you know which book(s) to bring each day. Stay organized, pay attention, and check the website regularly. I expect you to bring the correct textbook or novel to class each day.

- Pearson *myPerspectives: Grade 9*

This textbook is in two volumes, which are consumable, meaning you can write in them and make them your own.

Outside Reading

In addition to readings from our textbooks, we will also be reading the following books this year. You can check out or borrow the following, but I always recommend buying your own so you can mark notes in the margins. I will always give a couple of weeks' notice before we start a new novel, so you will have time to get a copy.

Mythology by Edith Hamilton

The Odyssey by Homer, translated by Robert Fagles

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

I will have enough copies of these to check out to students who do not obtain their own copies.

Basic Classroom Rules

Be punctual, engaged, prepared, and respectful

Of course, we will follow all school rules outlined in the student handbook.

Mr. Chip Barham

Room 203

Central Magnet School
701 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

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mrbarham.com

Mr. Barham's Daily Schedule

1st: Adv. Honors English I

2nd: PLANNING

3rd: Adv. Honors English I

4th: S1: ACT Prep
S2: Advanced Grammar

5th: Adv. Honors English I

6th: PLANNING

7th: Adv. Honors English I

8th: Adv. Honors English I

Contacting Me

The best way to reach me is through email. My email address is

barhamc@rcschools.net

Supplies

Be sure that you have the following materials with you every day in class:

- laptop or other device
- pencil and/or black ink pen (or dark blue)
- college-ruled paper
- red ink pen and yellow highlighter (needed occasionally)

Assignments are due at the beginning of class, and **computer or printer problems are not acceptable excuses for late work.**

Other Classroom Etiquette

Food and drink: No food or drink is allowed in class. A water bottle is the only exception.

While I am speaking: When I am speaking to the class as a whole, do not get up to throw away trash, to sharpen your pencil, or for any other reason except an emergency. You need to be listening.

Grooming: Basic grooming (doing your hair, makeup, etc.) needs to be done between classes, not during class. Also, do not spray perfume or cologne or use strongly scented lotions. Just because something smells good to you doesn't mean it smells good to everyone.

Privacy: Respecting your privacy is important to me, and I ask that you respect my privacy as well. Do not read or take anything that is on or behind my desk or podium without permission.

Late Work

Homework is due when I take it up, usually at the **beginning** of class. Except for extenuating circumstances, late work will not be accepted for full credit. This means that, except in the case of emergencies, late work will be penalized and, in some cases, could even receive a zero. Turn in your work on time.

Note, I do not take it personally when you do not get your work completed. **I'm here to help you** do the best you can, so please talk to me if you are starting to miss assignments or your grade starts slipping.

Heading Your Paper

Always head your paper using the following format:

Name

Mr. Barham

AH English 1: Period #

Date (format 2 Aug. 2025)

For informal homework and classwork assignments, the heading goes in the **upper right-hand corner**. For formal, typed assignments, we will follow MLA format, which will be explained on a different handout.

Center the title of the assignment at the top of the page following this heading.

Use the correct format for every assignment.

Organization

Your ability to keep your work organized is crucial to your success in this class. Although I do not require a specific method of organization, I require you to be able to efficiently find what you need when you need it.

I often recommend a three-ring binder with pockets and dividers to help you organize your materials for class.

Assignments and Grades

On most class days, you will receive at least one grade in class, ranging from minor class assignments to major test or essay grades. Punctuality and following directions, in addition to comprehension, are always factors in the grades you receive. Sloppy, half-completed work will be graded accordingly. Also, remember that every assignment, no matter how small, can make a difference in your average. Even ONE zero on a small, easy assignment can significantly affect your average. The main point: turn in **every** assignment. It is extremely difficult to recover from a series of zeros.

Unless otherwise instructed, you may not submit your homework via email except in the rare case of an emergency. Homework must be submitted in class and on paper.

I grade on a total points system. For instance, participation or homework grades can range from 3 to 20 points each, each quiz is usually 10 to 30 points, while essays and tests can range from 40 to 100 points. Major projects such as the research paper and oral presentations will count as large test grades (100-200 points). At any given time, you can average your grade by taking the total points you've earned on assignments and dividing by the total points possible.

Because this is an advanced honors class, **3 points will be added to your average each grading period.**

Absences

According to school policy, you will have a maximum of five days to make up assignments after an absence; however, **if a due date is assigned before your absence, your work will still be expected on the given due date.** For instance, if you have known for a week that an assignment is due on Wednesday, then you are out on Tuesday, your assignment will still be due when you return. There are exceptions to this rule, and I will always do what I deem to be fair to each situation, but the point is that you must make up your work in a reasonable amount of time. Always check with me about your due dates for make-up work.

If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you've missed and for making up the work. Only ask me what you've missed on a day you were absent **AFTER** you have checked the class website and checked with at least one other student. Then, if you have questions about the make-up work, come see me. **I will not track you down to get your make-up work.** If you do not turn it in within a reasonable amount of time, it will be recorded as a zero.

Most make-up quizzes and tests must be taken outside of regular class time. **To make up a test or quiz, you must schedule a time with me.**

Field Trips and Other School-Related Absences (SRAs)

You will always know about a school-related absence ahead of time, and it is your responsibility to make plans ahead of time. Assignments due on the day of a school-related absence are to be turned in **BEFORE** you leave school unless you work out a different plan with me. Assignments made while you are away from school are due on your return to school. It is your responsibility to know what you missed.

Academic Dishonesty

By this point, you should understand what plagiarism is and how serious it is. If not, I will explain it in full in class. You must realize that flagrant cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. If I see you (or otherwise catch you) copying someone else's work to represent as your own, you will receive a zero on the assignment, and I will contact your parents. The same penalty will apply to those who share their work for others to copy or those who rely on artificial intelligence like ChatGPT. Academic honesty is expected and required.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In accordance with Rutherford County Schools guidelines, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in this course is permitted only under the following conditions:

- **Approved Tools Only:** Students may use AI platforms that have been approved by RCS for student use.
- **Academic Integrity:** All student work must reflect personal effort and original thinking. AI may be used to support learning only when explicitly permitted by the teacher. AI tools are intended to enhance—not replace—student creativity and critical analysis.
- **Proper Citation Required:** Any content generated or influenced by AI must be cited appropriately. Submitting AI-generated work as your own without citation is considered plagiarism and will be addressed according to RCS academic integrity policies.
- **Responsible Use:** Students must not use AI to create or share content that is illegal, discriminatory, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate. All use must align with RCS digital citizenship and ethical standards.

Violations may result in disciplinary action and/or academic consequences. If you have questions about appropriate AI use, please speak with your teacher.

Standardized Tests

At the end of the school year, there will be statewide testing for all English I students. This test will include a writing test and an objective test, both of which will be given in late April or early May, and the scores from these tests will count as your final exam grade. Because it is a state-mandated test, no one can be exempt from the test; however, students will not be required to show up for their English exam on the regular school exam date at the end of May.

One optional test that freshmen can take during the first semester is the **PSAT/NMSQT**, administered in October. This test not only helps students practice test-taking skills for college entrance exams, it can also lead to an opportunity to win the prestigious National Merit Scholarship their junior year.

Midterm and Final Exams

Everyone is required to take a midterm exam at the end of the second quarter. Your midterm will be a county-wide midterm that is designed to mimic the state end-of-course test. The midterm will count as 15% of your first semester grade.

For all freshmen, the state test (see above) will count as the final exam grade, which will count as 15% of the second semester average.