

# Pre-IB English 2



## Course Description

This course challenges students to develop analytical reading and writing skills through the study of literary texts. We will examine prose and poetry from different cultures and various historical eras. We will then use these texts to stage class discussions and writing assignments in order to contemplate how we view the world. Ultimately, this course will provide foundational skills for successful completion of the IB English component of the Diploma Programme.

Welcome to Pre-IB English 2 with Mr. Benton! This course challenges students to develop analytical reading and writing skills through the study of literary texts. We will examine prose and poetry from different cultures and various historical eras. We will then use these texts to stage class discussions and writing assignments in order to contemplate how we view the world. Ultimately, this course will provide foundational skills for successful completion of the IB English component of the Diploma Programme. Through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted, IB students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning.

In this course, students will learn:

- to *closely* read texts
- to generate original interpretations about literature
- to express these ideas clearly and convincingly in written and oral assessments, and
- to develop the attributes of an IB learner.

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## Classroom Policies

### Expectations

I expect you to come to class on time and prepared. You must bring completed assignments and all the necessary materials to every class meeting.

I also expect you to be mentally present. This means you are demonstrating knowledge of the text, contributing to class activities, actively listening to others, and taking intellectual risks. You must always be respectful to the ideas expressed during this course, even if they conflict with your personal beliefs.

### Absences

In the case of a student's absence, it is completely the student's responsibility to obtain any and all materials and information delivered in class during the period of the absence; when possible, materials will be uploaded to the class website and ManageBac to allow access to any missed classwork. Due to the block schedule, please see me the day you return to school, even if our class does not meet that day. In the case of a missed test or in-class writing, I expect you to make up the assignment the day you return. You must take the initiative to arrange a make-up test or assignment.

If the work is not made up when scheduled or is not rescheduled after 36 hours, a zero will be given for the missed assignment. It should be noted that multiple absences in a class can remove a student's ability to exempt any/all semester exams.

### **Late Work**

Assignments that are turned in one school day late will always receive a 50%-off penalty. Work that is turned in over one school day late will receive a 0%. The exceptions to this rule are some long-term assignments for which 15-40% (the percentage steadily increases throughout the year at Mr. Benton's discretion) will be deducted for each late day. In the case of extenuating circumstances (illness, personal problems, etc.), please come speak with me privately so we can determine the appropriate course of action.

### **Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to complete all assignments without the assistance of others unless Mr. Benton explicitly allows written permission for collaboration on a specific assignment. Sharing work, using another's work for reference, "just trying to help", or using any other human's ideas without specifically citing the source will result in a grade of 0% on the assignment and a referral to administration for cheating. Students should report to tutoring instead of resorting to academic immorality. Per the International Baccalaureate English Department policy, each teacher reserves the right to challenge the authenticity of any student-generated writing. Inconsistencies in style and voice will require investigation to determine plagiarism.

### **Written Assignments**

All work must be written in black or blue ink on college-ruled paper. Please double-space your writing and use the front side of the page only.

When specified, you may type out-of-class assignments. Typed work should be in this format: double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced lines, and numbered pages.

### **Computer Access**

Throughout the school year, students will be required to type several formal journal responses, analytical essays, and other assignments for either online submission or as a physical hardcopy. If an internet-connected computer is not available at home, computers and internet access will be available before and after school (as well as during 5<sup>th</sup> period SSRs) in Mr. Benton's classroom.

### **Electronic Devices**

SPHS's policies explicitly disallow the use of electronic devices on campus (with the exception of during lunch). Mr. Benton utilizes an aquatic deterrent to reinforce this school policy in his classroom; if a student chooses to use an electronic device in Mr. Benton's classroom, said electronic device will be compulsorily moistened. This policy plainly puts the dryness of all illicitly used devices at risk. Chronic illicit use of electronic devices will lead to disciplinary referrals, confiscation of the device by campus security or administration, and – worst of all – potential loss of instructional time.

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### **Necessary Supplies**

Students must come to class prepared every day. Lack of materials can result in an unfortunate and completely avoidable loss of points on classwork and homework grades. Necessary supplies include the following:

- one composition book
- plenty of notebook paper
- several blue or black pens
- currently assigned reading
- 4 different colors of highlighters
- a way to reliably store handouts, notes, etc.
- several sheets of blank printer paper
- 5 or more colored pencils or markers

## **BentonEnglish.com**

Visit the class website ([bentonenglish.com](http://bentonenglish.com)) often for the weekly class agenda, downloadable versions of handouts and assignments, digital audio and text versions of assigned reading, and other useful info and links. This site is for parents as well as students! When contacting me by email (at [bentonro@pcsb.org](mailto:bentonro@pcsb.org)) or through the website, please provide your name and period in the subject area of the e-mail so it is easier to quickly identify you and better address your specific needs. We'll also make use of the Remind messaging system this year; you'll hear more about it in class soon.

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## **Wish List**

There are some supplies that are needed for the classroom that are not supplied by the school. Some of these needs are:

- Canon #245 & 246 print cartridges
  - 5-Hour Energy Shots
  - disinfecting wipes
  - hand sanitizer
  - paper towels
  - hand soap
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## **Tips for a Great Year ...**

- Do not allow assignments to pass you by. *Everything* counts!
- Don't be absent. Missing class will seriously affect your grade. Vacations and appointments need to be planned around your school schedule. If you wake up and don't feel well – come to school anyway! Unless you are in the hospital, vomiting, or have a high fever – you need to *be here*.
- Find a way to *get involved*. It will make a big difference in the type of college you get into and the scholarships you could earn. It will also make a huge difference in how much you enjoy school. Colleges are moving away from students who are involved in a million things to students who started their freshmen year in a club, organization, or sport and continued all the way through. Do not put this off because it will affect your future.
- When it comes time to apply for college, *ninth grade counts* on your transcripts. If you don't like a subject or a teacher – you need to tough it out! That's no reason to ruin your own future. Seniors say over and over again that their future changed because of what they chose *not* to do their freshmen year.
- Get to know your *guidance counselor*, and make sure they know who you are! This person will be filling out recommendation forms for you when college applications roll around.
- Middle school is *over*. Now you have more freedom and more choices. No one holds your hand anymore. Blowing off assignments could cause you to fail. Colleges are *very* interested in your overall GPA, so every class is important. Enjoy your new freedom, but realize that you also have new responsibilities.
- Communicate with your teachers. Email, Remind message, stop by: many of your teachers are very eager to respond to questions and will be significantly more merciful when approached one-on-one.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

After fully reading the syllabus, please sign, complete, detach, and return this page by the due date posted on the agenda board or – if you’re entering the course later in the year – two school days after receiving this syllabus packet. Please keep the rest of the syllabus in your English folder until the end of the school year.

### Syllabus Agreement

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand, and fully submit to, personally agree with, and shall willfully comply with all of the policies, rules, requirements, expectations, and consequences covered throughout this syllabus for Mr. Benton’s Pre-IB English 2 course.

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Info (please fill in all that apply)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: (    ) -    -

Evening phone: (    ) -    -     (if different)

Email address:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: (    ) -    -

Evening phone: (    ) -    -     (if different)

Email address:

(If more space is needed for more family contacts, please attach additional sheets.)

## Student Info

Your email:

Your phone:

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What school did you attend last year?

What was the name of your English/Language Arts teacher in 8<sup>th</sup> grade?

Do you have reliable access to a computer at home?

Do you have reliable access to the internet at home?

Are there any clubs or teams that you are currently part of or considering joining at SPHS?

Why are you in the IB Program?

What do you hope to get out of this class (*aside from* a high grade)?

What is your biggest motivation to do well in high school?

What is one thing about yourself that someone would never know just by looking at you?