

Pre-IB English 2



Course Description

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 a variety of historical eras. We'll use these texts as the basis for thoughtful class discussions and written pieces. Ultimately, this course will provide foundational skills for successful completion of the IB English component of the Diploma Programme. Engaged students will emerge from this course prepared to succeed in AP English Language and Composition as sophomores.

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.

Classroom Policies

Expectations

Please bring completed assignments and all of the necessary materials to every class meeting. You'll also want to be mentally prepared; this means you're demonstrating knowledge of the text, contributing to class activities, actively listening to others, and taking intellectual risks.

Approach

Teaching in this course is driven by critical concepts and fueled by inquiry. The study of literature is rooted in both local and global contexts, and classroom activity is focused on effective teamwork and collaboration. Instruction is informed by diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment while also allowing for adaptations to meet the needs of all learners.

Absences

In the case of a student's absence, it is the student's responsibility to obtain any and all materials and information delivered in class during the period of the absence; all class materials will be available on the course's Canvas page and the class website (bentonenglish.com). Due to the nature of the block schedule, please do not wait until the next day class meets to make contact. 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% (with the percentage steadily increasing throughout the year) will be deducted for each late day. In the case of extenuating circumstances (illness, personal problems, etc.), please contact me so we can determine the appropriate course of action.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to complete all assignments without the assistance of others unless I explicitly allow 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.

Submitting Assignments

All handwritten work must be written in black or blue ink (not in pencil); please double-space your writing and use the front side of the page only. Instructions will be given in class how to scan handwritten work into a PDF for submission.

Typed work should be in full MLA format unless otherwise directed. More instruction will be given in class soon.

Computer Access

Expectations will develop organically as the year goes on, but in-person students are highly encouraged to bring either a laptop, tablet, or smartphone to class.

Necessary Supplies

- plenty of college-ruled notebook paper
- several blue or black pens (not pencils)
- the currently assigned reading
- 3 colors of Post-it flags
- 4 different colors of highlighters
- a way to reliably store handouts, notes, etc.
- several sheets of blank printer paper
- 5 colored pencils, markers, or art pens
- a pack of small Post-it notes
- an academic planner (physical or digital)

Communication

Regularly visit the course’s Canvas page and the class website (bentonenglish.com) for the weekly class agenda, handouts, and assignments, digital audio and text versions of assigned reading, and other useful info and links. All class announcements will run through Remind, which also offers convenient two-way communication. If you’d prefer to email me (at bentonro@pcsb.org), please provide your name and period/block in the message so it’s easier to quickly identify you and better address your specific needs.

Teacher's Wish List

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

- disinfecting wipes
 - hand sanitizer
 - paper towels
 - 5-hour energy shots
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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 during 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 during their freshmen year.
- Get to know your *guidance counselor*, and make sure she knows who you are! This person will be filling out recommendation forms for you when college applications roll around.
- Middle school is very much *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.