

***English Course Syllabus***  
**2015-2016**  
**Instructor: Mrs. Aaker**  
**Linda.Aaker@k12.sd.us**

**ENGLISH II** - The primary goal of first semester is to review, practice, and improve Language Arts skills (reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar) and explore a variety of literary genres. Second semester's focus will be Speech Communication, seeking to improve students' verbal skills by preparing and presenting a variety of speeches, research projects, and presentations, as well as the Sophomore Autobiography assignment.

**ENGLISH III** – Junior English will explore the history of American literature and its authors from its inception to the present. Following the Common Core Standards, the primary goal of English III is to improve students' language arts skills for effective communication in both academic and workplace settings.

**ENGLISH IV** – Senior English is a comprehensive, chronological study of English (British) Literature, Language, and History utilizing the Common Core standards. We will literally begin before language was recorded and progress to the modern day, focusing on reading, research, writing, and presentations, as well as vocabulary and grammar review.

**Grading:**

A+	100	A	99-97	A-	96-94
B+	93-92	B	91-89	B-	88-87
C+	86-84	C	83-81	C-	80-79
D+	78-76	D	75-73	D-	72-70
F	69 and below	I	Incomplete		

- Your 1<sup>st</sup> semester grade is a compilation of 50% 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and 50% 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter
- Your 2<sup>nd</sup> semester grade is a compilation of 50% 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and 50% 4<sup>th</sup> quarter

Grading procedures follow a point system with the total points earned each quarter divided by the total possible points, thereby determining a percentage and letter grade for the quarter.

Points are equally weighted, but divided into 1) daily work and participation, 2) tests and quizzes, and 3) papers and presentations. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for that assignment as well as a notation on Campus.

**Expectations:**

1. Come prepared.
2. Follow directions.
3. Be respectful.

**Class Materials:**

Textbook, reading books, other books as needed, homework and assignments, English folder, notecards, paper, writing utensil, (blue or black ink preferred), your iPad, as well as a working knowledge of its technological and organizational capabilities.

**Participation Points and Attendance:**

The tone of English class is polite and professional. Professional conduct, personal responsibility, time management and organizational skills (including meeting deadlines) are all important skills to develop for 'real world' success. To this end, five participation points per week will be awarded if you arrive on time with the appropriate materials, conduct yourself appropriately, and contribute positively to the day's activities. **Points will be deducted for not having the appropriate materials** (especially reading books on Fridays) or for anything that detracts from the educational process, including disruptions, rule infractions or insubordination. Student Handbook policies will be followed.

## **Late Work**

Encouraging student accountability is an important bi-product of English class. This includes learning to be responsible and meet deadlines. The end of a quarter is an obvious final deadline for any assignment included in that quarter.

- Late or missing work, resulting from an absence from school, will be handled as stated in the Handbook, page 9 – “The responsibility of completing makeup work rests with the student. If work is made up within a reasonable time, the teacher will give credit for the work. A reasonable time limit is defined as **two school days for assignments assigned on each day missed** or within a period relevant to the class work. Assignments that were assigned PRIOR TO A STUDENT BEING ABSENT will be due upon the discretion of the classroom teacher.” For me, that means they are due when I see you again.
- Assignments are clearly scheduled in advance on the planning board AND on Campus, so adjust your own schedule accordingly. **PLAN AHEAD AND BE RESPONSIBLE!!**

*Other late work or uncompleted assignments are subject to the following:*

- **Submission of late assignments will result in a MAXIMUM GRADE OF 50%**; After one week, or if the assignment has already been returned to the class, or the test has already been taken, **NO CREDIT** can be given.

## ABCs to Success in English

A ttend  
B e prepared  
C oncentrate  
D o your own work  
E xpect to learn  
F ollow directions  
G et started  
H ave a good attitude  
I nitiate new ideas  
J ot it down  
K eep trying  
L isten  
M emorize important things  
N o fair cheating  
O rganize for efficiency  
P articipate  
Q uiet time is creative time  
R ead with a purpose  
S earch for answers  
T alk about ideas, not people  
U se your dictionary  
V erify information  
W rite to remember  
eXperience excellence  
Y ou can do it  
Z oom ahead to your future!