



## ENGLISH STUDIES 12

## Course Outline

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### Rationale: Why are you here?

The general goals of English are the enjoyment of literature and the development of thinking and communication skills. Speaking, listening, and writing about ideas and issues important to us make us deeper and more understanding human beings and more powerful communicators.

### Big Ideas:

#### English is driven by the following concepts:

- Exploring text and **story** helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.
- Developing our understanding of how language works allows us to use it purposefully.
- Purpose, audience, and context guide the author's choices in the construction of **text**.
- Language can shape ideas and influence others.
- People understand **texts** differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.
- **Texts** are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.
- The examination of First Peoples cultures and lived experiences through text builds understanding of Canadians' responsibilities in relation to Reconciliation.

### Curricular Content, Competencies, and Skills:

English Studies 12 offers texts (short stories, poems, plays, films, and novels) to appeal to a variety of interests and abilities, as well as opportunities to develop the ability to comprehend and connect to literature and to each other, to society and to our literary history. Building upon the foundations of Literary Studies 11, students will polish strategies and processes engaging with text, and will be expected to master oral and written language features, structures, and conventions appropriate to grade level.

### Link to Core Competencies and Skills:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/english-language-arts/12/english-studies>

**Activities:**

- Active listening
- Responding to literature orally, creatively, and through various forms of written expression using standard English conventions
- Class and small group discussions
- Oral presentations
- Independent reading
- In-class writing
- Writing for a variety of purposes

**Assessment:**

- Writing (both formal and informal)
- Quizzes
- Assignments (both individual and group)
- Oral language (including contributions to discussion)

**Department Expectations and Student Responsibilities:*****Successful students...***

- attend all classes.
  - arrive to class on time and with necessary materials.
  - behave respectfully towards staff and students.
  - actively participate.
  - work to the best of their ability.
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- Cell phones during classes: In English, we value face-to-face communication. The use of electronic devices requires explicit permission of the teacher. From the beginning of class, devices should be put in your bag, not your pocket.
  - Homework, tests, in-class essays, and presentations: You are responsible for any work missed in the course, whether or not you are in class when the work is assigned.
  - Lateness: repeated, unexcused lateness is disrespectful to the classroom community, and will be dealt with at the teacher's discretion.
  - Cheating and Plagiarism: Our school defines plagiarism as "the act of claiming another person or source's words and/or ideas as one's own." I will give out reference guidelines for any research assignments. Unless instructed to work with others, all work needs to be yours. If you have an English tutor, be aware that handing in work that is clearly written by someone more skilled in English than you is also plagiarism.
  - Late/incomplete work: all work must be completed by the deadline set by the teacher; extensions are at the discretion of the teacher.
  - Attendance: learning in this course is cumulative, and missing classes will result in gaping holes in learning, which may be reflected in your final grade. Please keep in mind that in a semester system where we meet every day, the pace is significantly greater than in a year-long system.

- Vacations: With the obvious exceptions of illness and family emergencies, I cannot provide alternate tests or assignments for the purposes of vacations. Please confine your vacations to days when school is not in session.

**Hints and suggestions for success:**

- PLEASE ASK FOR HELP BEFORE THE DUE DATE if you have questions or are having challenges. I am available in morning flex time as well as by appointment after school.
- A word of advice: It has been my experience that students who read for enjoyment (when you don't HAVE to) and who engage in discussions with others on a variety of topics do far better in English than those who do not. If you are not a reader, it's never too late! Read as much as possible in many different genres (novels, poetry, newspapers, magazines, etc.)
- Be curious!