



# BISHOP NOLL INSTITUTE

Established 1921

## PREPARING STUDENTS MIND, BODY & SOUL

Mariann Laird

**ENGLISH 9 (209)**  
E-Mail: MLaird@bishopnoll.org

ph: 219.932.9058 ext. 1209

---

“A book is simply the container of an idea--like a bottle; what is inside the book is what matters.”  
-- Angela Carter

### **Materials Needed:**

English Binder - Student Provided  
Summer Reading Notebook - Student Provided  
Writing utensil(s) - pen / pencil - Student Provided  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee - Student Provided (October 1st)  
Notecards-- Student Provided  
Vocabulary Workbook (Teacher assigned)  
English Textbook (Teacher assigned)

### **Course Description:**

Students in this course will integrate reading, writing, and language skills to improve and master reading comprehension and written expression, as well as oral and analytical skills. Students will examine works of fiction and nonfiction, including but not limited to essays, articles, historical accounts, novels, plays, and short stories. Students will be introduced to literary theories and a variety of works to develop an individual perspective through analysis, evaluation, interpretation, and reflection.

### **Course Objectives:**

*We will go above and beyond the state standards but with a special focus on the following skills:*

- Citing strong and thorough textual evidence of both fiction and non-fiction works
- Analyzing the development of themes and how characters interact with the central themes
- Analyzing multiple interpretations of a work
- Analyzing patterns and cultural significance of texts
- Dissecting the author's purpose of a text and how rhetoric is used to achieve that endeavor
- Examining words and phrases (denotation vs. connotation -- etymology -- figures of speech etc.)
- Composing argumentative and informative pieces

### **Course Year-Long Theme: “We make our choices...and then our choices make us”**

CHOICES. Our lives are filled with an endless amount of them and at the start of your high school career this year long theme is most relatable. Throughout the course we will analyze the choices of the characters, the authors, and of course, we will evaluate the consequences of those choices. How can literature and characters mirror our own lives, especially in regards to decisions made? How do our choices shape us? Do we have control over all of our choices or does fate play a role? These questions and many more will be explored throughout the course of your Freshmen English experience.

<u>What I expect from you...</u>	<u>What you can expect from me...</u>
The Three R's... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>R</b>espect yourself, your peers and the classroom</li> <li>● Be <b>R</b>esponsible - ask questions - come prepared for class</li> <li>● Come to class <b>R</b>eady to Learn - be prepared and on time - give your very best</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I <i>always</i> want to help -- I'm available, before/after school by appointment and via email</li> <li>● Work will be timely graded and returned with helpful feedback</li> <li>● <b>I respect you, I feel responsible for your learning, and I come ready to learn and teach every day</b></li> </ul>

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90 - 100      B = 80 - 89      C = 70 - 79      D = 60 - 69      F = 59 and below

**Academic Dishonesty (Plagiarism):**

- Automatic zero on the assignment (homework, test, essay etc.)
- Parents and Dean notified -- consequences vary based on the nature of the offense
- Offense entered on academic and disciplinary record
- \* ***See the student handbook for elaboration on offense***

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit is a rarity in my class. I prefer that we work hard on the course work and have that be our primary focus. However, one opportunity that remains available for the whole year is extra credit reading. If you read an outside reading book (in addition to what you are assigned) and conference with me either before or after school about the text, you can earn up to 10pts. You have the option to do this once per quarter. Please see me before beginning your reading because it must be approved first. Students may also bring in a box of tissues each semester for 5 extra credit points.

**Late Work Policy:**

Daily assignments must be turned in during class on the due date. If a daily assignment is not turned in on time, students will have 1 day to turn it in for 50% of the original credit, after which the assignment will no longer be taken for credit. Late submission of papers and projects will result in a 25% deduction each day it is late until the paper or project can no longer receive credit.

**Absences and Late Work:**

If your absence is excused (because of reasons listed in the student handbook), then you should turn in your work on the day you come back to school. However, please note that you are responsible for obtaining assignments and missed work. **Also, for students leaving on field trips, students must turn in the assignment due on the day of the field trip before leaving.** If a test is given on the day of a field trip, prior arrangements must be made with me for taking the test. **Please see the student handbook for more details.**

Syllabus subject to change.

**Please sign and return to Mrs. Laird by August 28, 2017 - Your signature indicates that you have read and that you will adhere to the policies and procedures. Thank you! :)**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_