**ENGLISH 121**

Course Outline

Ms. Bourgaize C109

English 121 is intended for students whose goals include post-secondary academic study. This course has an emphasis on literary texts, effective written and oral communication, and critical analysis. It is intended to enable students to:

* study complex and sophisticated texts and issues;
* be perceptive and analytical in making decisions and judgments;
* be critical and reflective readers and viewers;
* express themselves precisely;
* be capable editors of their own writing;
* communicate confidently and effectively;
* demonstrate control of language processes.

*(Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum Guide)*

I ask that you bring an open mind and a willingness to learn every day. Please come prepared. Also, I urge you to take risks—asking questions is the best way to learn and shows me you are engaged in the material.

**The Role of Critical Literacy:**

Critical literacy is a way of thinking that involves questioning assumptions; investigating how forms of language construct and are constructed by particular social, historical, cultural, political, and economic contexts; and examining power relations embedded in language and communication. Critical literacy is based on an awareness of the diversity of values, behaviours, social structures, and their forms of representation in the world (*Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum Guide* 177).

You are expected to come to class prepared having read any required readings. Class activities are planned, and discussion proceeds, under the assumption that students are familiar with daily material. Each student should also have the following materials daily in order to be successful in this course:

* binder with loose leaf,
* pens, pencils, highlighter,
* dividers,
* silent reading text,
* any assigned texts or readings.

You should be taking time each night to read for at least 30min. Nancie Atwell writes that reading is, “like money in the bank in terms of the rest of your life, but it helps you escape from the rest of your life and live experiences you can only dream of”. Reading for leisure not only helps to improve reading skills, but it strengthens writing skills as well – readers are better writers!

**Assessment Breakdown:**

Reading and Viewing: 30%

Writing and Representing: 25%

Speaking and Listening: 25%

Exam: 20%

Assessment of language and literacy skill is a continuous process throughout the semester which takes many forms. **While not all activities are evaluated with a numerical grade, their purpose is to practice developing skills; your understanding of the concepts will continuously be monitored and assessed.**

**General Information:**

* **Textbooks are your responsibility**; please handle with care and respect. Books not returned at the end of the semester must be paid for (at the current replacement value). Novels borrowed from the classroom will also need to be replaced if not returned.
* It is your responsibility to record due dates in your agendas and hand things in on time. Assignments are due on the deadline whether you are here or not. Technical difficulties (printers out of ink, computers malfunctioning, etc.) are never an acceptable excuse for late submission. Please note that any late assignments will automatically default to a mark of zero until that assignment is handed in. I encourage you to come and see me if there is any problem with finishing assignments.
* It is also your responsibility to catch up on work that you may have missed while absent. It is a good idea to find a buddy who will help you get caught up when you return. There are labelled bins in the classroom where you will be able to find any handouts that you will need. It is important to know that this folder only has handouts – it is your responsibility to ask your classmates for notes.
* **All submitted work must be the product of the student with credit given to external sources.**
* Teacher Website: msbourgaize.weebly.com
* Course Fee: $5

This should be paid online through cashless schools. Teachers are no longer permitted to accept cash payments for these fees.

* My email address is: amy.bourgaize@nbed.nb.ca
* Please arrange for extra help if you need it or if I suggest it. Make an appointment OR try to catch me at lunch in C109.

My classroom door is always open. Please feel free to stop in if you have any questions this semester. I look forward to a rewarding semester with each of you. I hope your experience in English 121 will be satisfying, enlightening and enriching.