

Communications 11

Course Outline and Class Expectations

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Overview

Communications 11 is intended to help students develop the language of competency fundamental to many opportunities in life, including continued learning, employment and social interaction. The curriculum provides students with opportunities to study a broad range of informational and literary works and to practice using language in written, oral and visual forms for a variety of functions.

Communications is an alternative English course designed for students who are not intending to pursue a university education directly after graduation. This course still contains all of the reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication skills found in other English courses.

Communications is not a course for people who are looking for an easy English class. There are regular assignments, quizzes and sometimes homework. Your best work habits, effort, attendance and participation are very important and expected!

Course Content

Functional Writing – focus on sentence structure, paragraph writing and multi-paragraph compositions. We will also focus on formal business letter writing.

Novel Study – students will be given a choice of novels

Poetry, Short Stories, Non-Fiction – this content will be covered by different units that incorporate ideas and themes that are relevant to life – both inside and outside of school.

Term Research Projects – focus on information retrieval, synthesis, organization, layout and presentation.

Media & Technology – focus on development of critical thinking and conversational skills including ‘inference & deduction’ and ‘determining bias’.



Assessment

Assessment methods in this course will be varied, including self, peer and teacher evaluations in both a formative and summative format. Students will be expected to contribute to **both** their own learning **and** that of their peers. This belief requires the students to be engaged in a respectful dialogue that places a premium on the common goal of greater understanding and skill development.

Terms 1& 2	80%	Classwork
	20%	Final Exam

Each student will receive a copy of the Communications 11 Essential Learning Outcomes, and will self-assess their progress throughout the course, in conjunction with other formative and summative assessments.

<i>Formative</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Skills</i>	<i>Oral</i>	<i>Total</i>
15%	25%	25%	25%	10%	100%

Daily Mark

A daily mark out of 3 will be recorded for your work habits mark in this class.

To receive 3/3, a student will need to:

- ✓ be *on-time*
- ✓ bring all necessary materials
- ✓ work on something for *this class during* class-time and/or participate in discussions

Class Procedures

Leaving Class

Please check with the teacher **before** leaving the classroom. Any student leaving the classroom **must have** the **hall pass** with them.

Cell Phones

Should not be used during class time unless they are part of the lesson.

LDSS cell phone policy:

At LDSS, we understand that a cell phone can be a useful tool in the context of student learning and as such we want to promote responsible use of this technology. Cell phone use that interferes with learning is prohibited and may result in the following:

- *be given a warning*
- *asked to give the phone to the teacher for the class*
- *have the cell phone removed until the end of the day*

Continued student offenses may result in the cell phone being kept until a parent meeting and/or suspension.

Music Players

May be used during independent work time.

Food/Drink

Students may bring healthy food/snacks and water or juice to class.

Expectations

*We are a community of learners who support and encourage one another to be our best selves. We show **commitment** to learning, **control** of our behavior, respectful **communication**, and **cooperation**.*

- ✓ Listen and interact with others in a respectful manner. Show respect by using **appropriate language** at all times; help to create positive and collaborative relationships.
- ✓ Ensure that the class is **safe** place to be, for everyone, as well as a place where everyone can learn. Take care of your property as well as that of others.
- ✓ Review your work regularly. You should take 5-10 minutes after every class and ensure that you understand what was covered. This also ensures that you will be prepared for in-class quizzes and ready for the final exam.
- ✓ If you are feeling overwhelmed or concerned that you are getting behind, talk to me. I will do whatever I can to ensure that you are successful in this course!

Other Details

For copies of assignments, handouts, PowerPoints, etc:



I have created a class website for this course at: www.missbeckscsclass.weebly.com
I will use this website to post handouts, PowerPoints, project/assignment information, study guides, and anything else relevant to our class time together. This is a useful tool if you will be away, or if you would like to review any material that we have covered in class.