



The Journey of Humanity: Who We Are, What We Fear, and What We Hope To Become

Key Message / Teacher Philosophy

English 20-1 is about developing your thinking, writing, and analytical skills. You'll explore stories that reveal the best and worst of human nature. Daily reading, writing, and reflection will strengthen your skills. Consistent effort, curiosity, and active participation will set you up for success. Take risks, have fun, and remember that learning is a process.

Course Overview

In English 20-1, we'll explore texts that help us understand the human experience. From dystopian futures to Shakespearean tragedy, from deserted islands to poetry, we'll ask: What does it mean to be human?

This course aligns with Alberta Education's Senior High English Language Arts outcomes:

- Appreciate literature – understand and value the significance and artistry of texts.
- Use language confidently – communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences.

You will develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and representing. Along the way, you will:

- Discover possibilities
- Extend awareness
- Construct meaning from text and context
- Understand and appreciate textual forms, elements, and techniques
- Respond to a variety of print and non-print texts
- Determine inquiry or research requirements
- Follow a plan of inquiry
- Develop and present a variety of texts
- Improve thoughtfulness, effectiveness, and correctness of communication
- Respect others and strengthen the community
- Work effectively in groups

Teaching Methodology

Students learn best when they make choices, reflect on their learning, and take responsibility for their progress.

Instruction will include:

- Direct teaching for essential skills and concepts
- Cooperative learning through discussion, group work, and peer feedback
- Independent study to develop research and self-directed learning skills
- Small and large group instruction to tailor support and encourage engagement
- Technology integration to enhance understanding and creativity

Literary Terms Progression

By Grade 20, you are expected not just to identify literary terms, but to explain their significance and dramatic function. Each unit will highlight key terms, and you'll practice weaving them into discussion and writing. Think of them as your English survival kit.



Scope & Sequence (Sept–Jan, Semester 1)

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Texts / Media</i>	<i>Skills & Lit Terms Focus</i>
Our Journey & the World Around Us	Sept	Dystopian Visions – Predicting the Future by Reading the Present	Various short stories, excerpts	Dystopian elements, protagonist traits, tone, mood, setting, imagery, theme, irony
Trust & Betrayal	Oct	Macbeth – Ambition, Power, and Downfall	Shakespeare’s Macbeth (with media pairings)	Soliloquy, aside, dramatic irony, motif, archetype, tragic hero/ flaw, pathetic fallacy, foil, theme
The Human Spirit	Nov	Lord of the Flies – What happens when society collapses?	William Golding’s Lord of the Flies	Allegory, symbolism, archetypes, conflict, mood, atmosphere, theme, irony
Film Study	Dec	TBD – Exploring Humanity Through Film	TBD	Theme, character, conflict, tone, motif, symbolism, perspective
Extreme Revelations (Poetry)	Late Dec–Jan	Poetry – Speaking the Unspeakable	Atwood, Dickinson, Hughes, Yeats + student choice poems	Figurative language, metaphor, simile, personification, diction, rhythm, tone, motif, imagery
Final Exam Prep	Jan	Synthesis & Review	Practice texts & writing	Review of all literary terms and concepts

Outcome-Based Grading

Your grade will reflect growth across the five big skill areas for English:

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Skill Area</i>	<i>What it Means</i>	<i>Weight</i>
1	Explore Ideas	Connect literature to your own thoughts & experiences	20%
2	Understand Texts	Analyze what texts mean & why they matter	25%
3	Manage Ideas	Organize, plan, and support ideas with evidence	20%
4	Create Texts	Write, present, and create with clarity & style	25%
5	Work With Others	Collaborate and communicate respectfully	10%

Final Exam:

- Part A (Essay) → Create Texts
- Part B (Reading Comprehension and Terms) → Understand Texts
- The final exam will be weighted within outcomes 2 and 4.



Assessment Explanation

Assessment is based on multiple types of learning tasks:

- Formative: Daily activities, class discussions, or practice exercises. This is how I assess what you understand well, what I need to review, and what you still need to learn. Feedback-focused, may include a grade but mostly helps you improve.
- Summative: Essays, projects, or larger assignments demonstrating understanding of unit concepts. This is how I assess your understanding based on our Program of Studies.

Marks will be posted in PowerSchool. Students are encouraged to discuss grading and feedback with the teacher for continual improvement.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Plagiarism means presenting someone else's words, ideas, or work as your own. This includes:

- Copy-pasting from the internet (even just a sentence or two)
- Using another student's work or having someone else write for you
- Failing to give credit when you use someone's words or ideas




How to Avoid It


- Put ideas into your own words
- Use quotation marks for exact wording
- Always cite your sources (MLA-style)
- When in doubt—ask first

Integrity matters. Your voice, thinking, and effort are what truly count.

AI in This Course

AI can be a powerful tool, but in English 20-1, we'll use it ethically and responsibly:

-  Allowed: Brainstorming ideas, generating questions, clarifying confusing passages, practicing vocabulary, or testing writing strategies.
-  Not Allowed: Copy-pasting AI writing and handing it in as your own, or using it to dodge the thinking process.
-  Expectation: If you use AI, you must acknowledge it (ex: "I asked ChatGPT to help me brainstorm thesis ideas") and make the final work your own.

 The goal is to help you think better, not to think for you.

Classroom Expectations

- Attend class regularly and participate actively
- Respect peers, teachers, and the learning environment
- Stay organized and submit work on time
- Take responsibility for your learning
- Engage fully with all course activities, including discussions, readings, and assignments