English Studies 12 – Course Outline (Spring 2025)

Course Description

English Studies 12 is a future-facing, discussion-rich course that combines classic and contemporary literature with design thinking, creative expression, and the ethical use of AI tools. Students will explore themes of identity, protest, speculative futures, and the evolving role of education in the 21st century. They will read across genres—including short stories, novels, and nonfiction—and will create original speculative fiction based on contemporary issues. This course emphasizes classroom participation, frequent low-stakes quizzes to reinforce learning, and culminates in a cumulative final exam that assesses both skills and content knowledge. While AI writing tools may be used for brainstorming or idea generation, all major writing must be completed in class. First Peoples Principles of Learning will be woven throughout, particularly in our discussions of voice, language, and community.

Units of Study

Unit 1: Short Stories – Identity & Culture
    Exploring how language, heritage, and personal experience shape voice and worldview.

Unit 2: Novel Study – Protest, Language, and Control
    A close study of *Fahrenheit 451*, paired with media criticism, nonfiction, and historical parallels.

Unit 3: Creative Writing – Speculative Fiction
    Students craft their own short story in a speculative future, using the tools of literary fiction.

Unit 4: Design Thinking – The Future of School
    Collaborative, inquiry-based project to redesign education for the AI era.

Evaluation

Assessments (4)	40%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Final Exam (skills-based and content-based)	20%
Participation	25%
Total	100%

The final exam will be both content-based and skills-based. Students will be asked to apply concepts and analytical tools developed over the term to unfamiliar texts, demonstrating the ability to read, analyze, and write independently. It will include sections on literary terms, reading comprehension, literary analysis, and a synthesis response.

AI Use Policy

Students may use AI tools to assist with brainstorming or idea generation during early-stage creative thinking. However, all final written products—essays, stories, reflections—must be completed in class without AI assistance. The purpose of this policy is to ensure authentic voice, growth, and original thinking while still introducing students to ethical AI-supported workflows.

First Peoples Principles of Learning

This course respects and incorporates the First Peoples Principles of Learning, particularly the importance of storytelling, personal voice, reflective practice, and interconnectedness. Throughout the course, we reflect on multiple worldviews and acknowledge that learning is holistic, reflexive, and tied to community and identity.