



Dire Ambition

YOU CAN'T POLISH A TURD

LEVEL 1 COURSE OUTLINE 2017

I am in blood

Stepp'd in so far, that, should I wade no more,

Returning were as tedious as go o'er.



TEACHER: Chris Waugh

CHALLENGE LEVEL: Challenging

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: 40%

STYLE: Stop at nothing.



Content

Choosing Dire Ambition as your English programme for Level 1 means that you probably like the world to see you as a political, more socially-conscious type; you're probably irritated by injustice and your ironic humour has probably got you into trouble on more than one occasion... This programme will take a satirical approach. You'll need to think fast, question everything and be willing to speak up. You will be asked to challenge yourself as well as others, take risks and show ambition.

We'll be reading the work of some of the 19th and 20th Century's greatest **satirists, poets and authors**. We'll explore **political language** and investigate the gulf between what the powerful say and what you experience. We'll look at the grammar and style of a range of **satirical writing** by from Swift through Mark Twain and Clive James to Frankie Boyle - and publish our own. We'll read **Macbeth** and explore the impact of unfettered ambition in **Lord of the Flies** as well as the moral compromises presented in the film of Alan Bennet's play **The History Boys** and the consequences of human ambition in the film **Gattaca**. Throughout, you will be practising the key skills required to succeed in the NCEA examinations. In parallel to this everyone will be completing for homework their own longitudinal social inquiry by investigating links between self-selected books, films and art and presenting these in **verbal form**.

Course Rationale

A sound knowledge of the mechanisms behind English Language and Literature is arguably more essential to your future than ever before. A critical mind and a deft appreciation of the subtleties of the English language are going to be essential for success in all walks of life.

This course is for students who want to keep all options open and are ready to put themselves to the test. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, my pretties.

Online Learning

This course involves the use of Wordpress blogging in order to provide access to all learning resources and, more importantly, to provide students with a publishing platform for their work.

Everything related to this course will be published via the class hub at the address:

level1.edutronic.net



Assessment

The course will be assessed using a range of NCEA assessment tools which will be selected from the table on the following page. The English department is guided by the following principles when selecting which assessments will be offered:

- Ample opportunity is given to students to achieve the New Zealand Universities' "Literacy" criteria, both through internal and external assessments; this course fulfils the requirements for University Literacy (in Reading and Writing).
- All areas of learning in English should be assessed throughout the year
- Assessment should happen only once a student has developed the requisite knowledge and skill to tackle the task effectively
- The opportunity to gain enough credits in English to continue to Level 3 at Mount Aspiring College (16 Credits) is guaranteed.

REASSESSMENT

The Achievement Standards offered in this course may not be resubmitted, however a reassessment opportunity may be offered to students who do not achieve the standard on the first attempt. This opportunity will only be offered to students who have shown a reasonable initial effort and who can demonstrate that further learning has occurred since the initial assessment opportunity. All reassessments are composed of an entirely different assessment task.

SUBMISSION OF WORK

Teachers will only accept hard-copies of students' work. Electronic copies will no longer be accepted. When submitting your work you need to follow the guidelines below:

- In the first instance hand it to your teacher
- If they are unavailable, hand it into the office or another English department member
- The work must be signed and dated to verify when it was submitted.

LATE WORK

Work submitted late for the internal assessment standards will not be marked. You may have the opportunity to gain the credits through reassessment, if available. If you have a genuine reason why you are unable to submit work by the due date, then you are able to apply for an extension. However this should occur prior to the due date, not after it. Absence from school due to sickness is not normally regarded as an acceptable reason for the non-submission of assessed work. Alternative arrangements, electronic or otherwise should be made in this event.

AUTHENTICITY STATEMENT

The English Department has an Authenticity Statement, which students are to sign when submitting an assessment. This signifies that the work is the student's own and safe-guards students from the dangers of plagiarism.



STANDARD	TITLE	CREDITS
1.1 EXTERNAL	Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), using supporting evidence	4
1.3 EXTERNAL	Show understanding of significant aspects of unfamiliar written text(s) through close reading, using supporting evidence	4
1.4 INTERNAL	Produce creative writing	3
1.6 INTERNAL	Construct and deliver an oral text	3
1.8 INTERNAL	Explain significant connection(s) across texts, using supporting evidence	4
1.10 INTERNAL	Form personal responses to independently read texts, supported by evidence	4
	TOTAL	22