



# Mr. Huelsman's English & Religion Syllabi



## Introduction

Welcome to eighth grade English and Religion! Please look over the following information carefully and keep this sheet with you throughout the year. I'm looking forward to starting a brand new year with you as we share several academic and spiritual discoveries.

Sincerely,

## Contact/Website Information

The following are acceptable methods to contact me.

Please respect my privacy by refraining to contact me via my personal cell, myspace, or facebook.

Email: [chuelsman@stgabriel.net](mailto:chuelsman@stgabriel.net)

School Phone: (502) 239-5535 (ext #232)

Website: <http://www.stgabriel.net/chuelsman/huelsman.html>

## Course Objectives

Students will explore the following topics throughout the school year. These topics are not sequential and may vary in length and workload.

### Religion

- Abstinence Program
- Church History & Tradition
- Confirmation
- Family Life
- Prayer Study
- Saint Research
- Vocational Study

### English

- English Usage & Grammar
- Literary Interpretation
- Speech & Drama
- Vocabulary Study
- Writing Workshop  
(*Persuasive, Expository, Poetry, etc.*)

## Required Materials

Students are required to bring the following materials with them to every class:

- Sharpened pencil or blue/black pen
- Assignment planner
- Notebooks for English and Religion (*college-ruled preferred.*)
- English/Religion binder w/ corresponding folders and loose-leaf paper
- Course textbook(s)
- Catholic Youth Bible for Religion
- A reading book of the student's choosing (*This may also be an assigned novel from Literature.*)
- Flashdrive for Course Projects

## Assessment

Grades will be assessed as follows.

Percentages may vary from semester to semester depending on workload.

### Religion

Tests/Projects	35%
Quizzes/Prayers	45%
Class Work/Participation	20%

### English

Tests/Published Writing	30%
Quizzes	40%
Class Assignments	20%
Participation	10%

## Class Expectations

Students are expected to abide by the following while in my class:

1. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared with all of their materials to engage in the daily lesson. Students will not be allowed to return to their homeroom for any missing assignments, books, or supplies.
2. Students are expected to participate in the activities or discussions presented during class. It is also expected that students actively take notes on every topic covered in class. Class notes are oftentimes the primary source of tested material.
3. At the end of every unit, students will review what they have learned and take a test based largely on the notes and discussions presented during class. Tests are quite extensive and each student will need to study several nights in advance before the test date. Each test is announced at least one week in advance. Quizzes will cover smaller sections of a particular unit and may or may not be announced. Any test or quiz missed due to absence will need to be made up when the student returns to class.
4. In Religion, students will be asked to memorize and recite/recall certain prayers. (This will also include mysteries of the Rosary.) Students will be given a list of prayers/mysteries along with a timeline to recite/recall these prayers for class. These prayers/mysteries will be graded the same as a quiz grade.
5. In addition to tests and quizzes, students will be required to complete unit-based, long-term assignments. Students will be given specific instructions as well as a timeline on how and when to complete these assignments at the beginning of the unit. Long-term assignments will be graded the same as a test grade.
6. In English, students need to come to class prepared to write daily. Writing assignments will vary from short writing prompts in their notebooks to long-term writing projects that result in a published piece of work. Published pieces of writing will be graded and kept on file in the classroom until the end of the year. Writing projects that result in a published work will be treated the same as a long-term assignment.
7. In addition to traditional forms of assessment, students will periodically take part in debates and dramas based on certain topics. These debates and dramas will be assessed by the level of participation and effort that each student is required to demonstrate during the particular activity.
8. All assignments must be turned in during the period that it is due to receive full credit. Any paper without a name will be treated as a missing assignment. Late assignments will be given a -20% deduction for the first day, a -40% for the second day, and no credit after three days. Missing assignments are marked for 0% credit.
9. Assignments are given during class and are posted online as a courtesy for the students and parents. Students are responsible for any assignments even if they are not posted on the website. Assignments will also be posted on the homeroom board for students to copy down at the end of the day. Assignments missed due to absence are due the first day the student returns to school.
10. Feel free to communicate any personal concerns or academic questions with the teacher either before or after class. Conferences and informal tutoring can be made available upon request and is dependent on the teacher's schedule.
11. Students are expected to treat everyone around them with respect and observe the code of conduct outlined in the *St. Gabriel Student Handbook*.

### General Class Rules

Three simple rules to abide by in my class at all times:

1. Respect God and all of His creations.
2. Respect others and their property.
3. Respect yourself and your gifts.

### Student Bill of Rights

As a student, I have the right to:

- Be happy and treated with respect. No one will laugh at me or hurt my feelings.
- Be myself. No one will treat me unfairly because of my gender, physical looks, personal beliefs, or community background.
- Be safe. No one will hurt me, either physically or emotionally, in any way.
- Listen and be heard. No one will prevent me from listening to my instructors or keep me from expressing my opinions in an acceptable manner.