

# Ivy College Guru

Dr. Gavin Wittje

[gavinwit@gmail.com](mailto:gavinwit@gmail.com)

[www.ivycollegeguru.com](http://www.ivycollegeguru.com)

Phone: 616-516-3959

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**Sundays, 4pm-6pm from 1/18-5/3/2026 (or Saturdays, 5-7)  
A 16-week Fall Semester Session; One Meeting Per Week**

2026 Spring Semester Accelerated English Class Syllabus  
A 16-week Spring Semester Session; One Meeting Per Week

## I. Purpose of the program

I'm fond of my students and am dedicated to helping improve their chances at a bright and happy future. I wish to give them not only a step up in their preparation for high school and standardized testing but also a positive outlook on English in general so that they can excel in their regular classes and in life. The course will surely enhance students' grammar, vocabulary, reading, and writing through targeted drills and discussion. It is my intention also to build into these students a love of reading that they will subsequently continue to nurture on their own.

## II. Major Contents of the program

The thematic topic this semester will be "Consciousness." In the philosophy of mind, what is known as "the hard problem" is why and how humans and other organisms have phenomenal consciousness and subjective experiences, since no explanation by reference to the "structure and dynamics" that underpin the phenomena can be found. Inquiry into this matter has inspired debate in many other fields, as well, such as AI research and even theology. This semester, we will try to make some literary connections. We will also be training for the changes in the SAT.

## III. Textbooks and Study Materials

The class requires a number of books and other materials. You will be sent the Accelerated English Study Guide but need to purchase the classic books.

1. 2026 Spring Semester Accelerated English Study Guide (including short stories, poems, and excerpt of *Brothers Karamozov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky)
2. *Wordly Wise 11* (ISBN: 978-0838877111)
3. Classic books:

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (ISBN: 978-1411479647)

*Catcher in the Rye* by (ISBN: 978-0316769174)

*The Neuromancer* by William Gibson (ISBN: 978-0441007462)

*Heart of Darkness* by Josef Conrad (ISBN: 978-1949611144)

#### IV. Schedule of the Advanced English Class

Class	Dates	Reading/Literature/Poems	SAT RW Exercises	Wordly Wise Book 11
1	1/18	The Neuromancer, “Johnny Neumonic,” and “Burning Chrome” by William Gibson	Reading Intro	Introduction
2	1/25	The Neuromancer, “Johnny Neumonic,” and “Burning Chrome” by William Gibson “Attack of the Crab Monsters” by Lawrence Raab	Reading Question Types, Big Picture	Lessons 1-2
3	2/1	The Neuromancer by William Gibson “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” by Ursula K. LeGuin	Question Types: Detail, Vocab	Lessons 3-4
4	2/8	The Neuromancer by William Gibson “The Quiet World” by Jeffrey McDaniel, “Asthma Attack” by Etger Keret, “Robot Exclusion Protocol” by Paul Ford	Question Types: Inferences, Tone	Review for Lesson 1-4
5	2/15	Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger “A Respectable Woman” by Kate Chopin	Grammar Intro, Verbs	Lesson 5-6
6	2/22	Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger “The Son” by Herman Hesse	Nouns and Pronouns	Lessons 7-8
7	3/1	Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger “Thrown Away” by Rudyard Kipling	Modifiers	Review for Lesson 5-8
8	3/8	Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger “The Open Window” by Saki	Modifiers, Cont.	Lesson 9-10
9	3/15	Heart of Darkness by Josef Conrad “Gifted” by Simon Rich	Punctuation	Lessons 11-12
10	3/22	Heart of Darkness by Josef Conrad “Bread” by Margaret Atwood	Punctuation, Cont.	Review for Lesson 9-12
11	3/29	Heart of Darkness by Josef Conrad “What He Thought” by Heather McHugh	Punctuation, Cont.	Lesson 13-14
12	4/5	Heart of Darkness by Josef Conrad “A Boy in Church” by Robert Graves	Sentence Structure	Lessons 15-16

13	4/12	“The Grand Inquisitor” from Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky, Matthew Dickman’s “Grief”,	Rhetoric	Review for Lesson 13-16
14	4/19	Hamlet by William Shakespeare Sherman Alexie’s “Heroes”	RW Sample Questions	Lesson 17-18
15	4/26	Hamlet by William Shakespeare “The Dark Night” St. John of the Cross	Critical Reading questions	Lesson 19-20
16	5/3	Hamlet by William Shakespeare “Marks” by Linda Paston, “20/20” by Linda Brewer	Critical Reading questions	Review for Lesson 17-20