

ENGLISH 9 SYLLABUS

2021-2022

Ms. Ashley Jordan

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Course Description: English 9 integrates listening, speaking, reading, and writing through studies of literature and composition. Types of literature studied include biographies, autobiographies, essays, short stories, dramas, speeches, and novels. Students explore world literature, employing critical and analytical evaluation of literary works. Written expression lessons allow students to develop and demonstrate skills in composition, grammar usage, and the writing process. Preparation for language and reading aspects of scholastic aptitude, and post-secondary admission tests are aspects of English 9. This course fulfills the requirements of one unit of ninth grade English for graduation.

Materials:

- large three-ring binder
- loose-leaf paper
- pack of dividers (Daily Grammar Practice, Vocabulary, Literature, Grammar, Writing)
- black pens, red pens, pencils, highlighters, and research supplies

Classroom Rules:

****All Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and Brookwood High School rules will be enforced in our classroom.****

1. Respect yourself and all others.
2. Follow directions the FIRST time they are given.
3. Speak only when you have permission to do so.
4. Come to class on time with all materials, prepared to work for the entire class period.

Infractions of Rules:

If a student chooses to misbehave, I will first give a verbal or nonverbal warning. If the behavior does not change, I will conference with the student. At this time, I may also communicate with parents/guardians. If a student repeatedly misbehaves or displays blatantly disrespectful or violent behavior, he or she will be referred to the office

Please note that I keep a record of student behavior which may be used in conferences with administrators or parents.

Attendance and Makeup Work

Class attendance is essential for success in this class. Tardies will be assigned if a student is not in his or her seat and ready to work when the bell rings. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain makeup work and return that work within two days of an absence. Make-up work will be available on Schoology, and we will follow the TCSS policy on make-up work.

Because the dates for large projects, writing assignments, quizzes, and tests are set in advance, you will be expected to turn in the assignment or take the test immediately upon return to school if you are absent on the due date or test date. In addition, if you miss school on the day a take-home essay is due, you must email me a copy of your final draft on the due date and hand in a hard copy on the day you return to school. If you miss my class but attend school for a portion of the day, you are expected to turn in your work that day.

If you have questions about TCSS policies on absence and makeup work, please see the Parent-Student Information Guide.

Grading

Each assignment will be worth a number of points based on the difficulty and length of the assignment. These assignments include daily grammar practice and warm-ups, writing assignments and essays, speeches, homework, major exams (unit tests and nine-weeks exams), class assignments, quizzes (announced and unannounced), projects (novel projects and research projects), and word-of-the-day tests. Grades will be figured on a total points basis. The total number of points earned will be divided by the total number of points possible.

I do not accept late work for homework/daily grades. Late projects, essays, major writing assignments, etc. may be accepted one day late for partial credit, at the teacher's discretion. Research papers are NOT accepted late except in dire and unavoidable emergencies with appropriate documentation. **If a due date for a project, writing assignment, or test has been set ahead of time, you should be ready to turn in the assignment or take the test immediately upon return to school.**

The required comprehensive nine-weeks assessments will take place at the end of the first, second, and third nine weeks will be worth approximately 10% of the 9 weeks average (the number of points possible throughout the 9 weeks will determine the number of points the test will be worth). The comprehensive final exam will be 20% of the course average.

Personal Electronic Devices:

I welcome the appropriate use of technology in my class! It is a powerful and valuable educational resource. Students have the option to use electronic and technological devices at SPECIFIED times and ONLY when authorized by the teacher for an instructional purpose. Devices such as smart phones, Kindles, Nooks, laptops, and iPads are items that students may use at the designated time. Students may also use these devices to replace paperback/hard-cover novels required for purchase/use for reading assignments with permission from the teacher. If a student is using a device inappropriately (not in accordance with classroom instruction or TCBOE policy), consequences will be enforced as stated in the Code of Conduct Handbook.

Course Content:

1. Starters: At the beginning of each class, students will be responsible for recording and completing the DGP (Daily Grammar Practice). These activities will be kept in students' notebooks, and students will be quizzed on this material weekly.
2. Tests: Tests will assess students after material is covered in class. Tests will be frequent based on the amount of material covered during the semester.
3. Quizzes: Quizzes will be given frequently to assess students' understanding and application of literary, writing, and grammar concepts. Reading quizzes will be frequent—keep up with your reading!
4. Composition: Students will write daily. Some writing assignments will be short and informal while others will be extensive and formal. Students will write timed, in-class essays and lengthier out-of-class essays. We will explore the writing process and several modes of writing including narrative, descriptive, expository, persuasive, and research.
5. Research Projects: Students will complete at least one formal research paper and project. Other small research activities will prepare students for formal assignments.
6. Literature: Each class period will be devoted to meeting Alabama Course of Study Standards through meaningful learning experiences. We will read selections from the literature book and other sources: short stories, drama, poetry, novels, and nonfiction pieces.
7. Grammar: We will cover topics including but not limited to, parts of speech, parallel structure, clauses and phrases, conjunctions, agreement, noun and verb forms, sentence structure and variety, punctuation, and active vs. passive voice.
8. Homework: Homework is meant to review or extend classroom learning activities and to enhance upcoming assignments. Students will complete homework on a regular basis.
9. Outside Reading: Some reading will be completed in class, but students will be responsible for reading some material outside of class.

Class Procedures:

1. Beginning class – Students are expected to be in their seats and on task when the bell rings. We start working IMMEDIATELY to maximize the learning potential for each class period.
2. Bell work-Students will have bell work to do at the beginning of each class. It is expected for every student to complete these assignments every day, whether graded or not. This work MUST be made up like all other work in the class when the student is absent. Students will be quizzed on this material frequently.
3. Assignments- Students will be expected to complete projects, reading, quizzes, tests, writings, and other assignments throughout the year. For many assignments and projects, students will be required to work outside of class. Homework will be written on the board and should be included in your planner
4. Questions and Tutoring- If a student has questions, he or she may raise his or her hand until the teacher gives permission to speak. Students are also able to email the teacher outside of school hours if there is a question. If a student needs extra help with the curriculum, please schedule a time to meet with me in advance.
5. Passes- It is important for in-person students to be in the classroom at all times; however, passes may be issued in case of an emergency. Each time a pass is issued, the student will record the time they signed out of class and the time they signed back in. Failure to accurately record the times the student is out of the room or the places visited will be treated as a disciplinary infraction.
6. Leaving the classroom – At the end of class, students are expected to continue working on their assignments until the bell rings. We will clean the classroom at the end of each class! Students are NOT to pack up, stand up, or line up at the door before the bell rings. Upon leaving the classroom, make sure your desk area is clean. Do not leave a mess for someone else to clean up!
7. Going to other locations within the school – Students should remain quiet in the hallway and go straight to the other location (i.e. the library, lunchroom, gym, etc.). No trips to lockers or to the restroom will be permitted while we are in transit. We will always stay together as a class.
8. Emergencies and Drills – Students are NOT allowed to talk, horseplay, or misbehave during a drill or emergency. **Students must also stay with their class.** It is very important that teachers and school personnel are able to hear and give directions in an emergency, so any student who is talking, horse playing, or otherwise misbehaving during a drill or emergency will receive a referral to the office.

Schoology

The Tuscaloosa County School System has chosen Schoology as the virtual platform that will be utilized by both remote and on-campus students. Teachers will provide instruction and coursework in Schoology that students will be required to complete. This virtual content will consist of, but is not limited to the following: instructional videos, assessments, discussion board posts, writing assignments, etc. Each item will have a due date posted, and all work is expected to be completed by the date posted. Work posted after the due date will be considered late. Students have two options to login. Students can go to the Tuscaloosa County School's homepage and click the "Schoology" link at the top and enter login credentials there. Students can also visit www.schoology.com and enter their login credentials to gain access to the site.

Additional Information:

Students, please remember that organization, communication, and a positive attitude are essential for success in this class! The material we cover in this class is rigorous, but I have no doubt that you are capable of doing well if you apply yourself and keep up with the work.

If you need help, please let me know! I am available before and after school to help you with topics you do not understand. Remember that Schoology can help you keep up with your classwork and due dates!

Parents, after reading and reviewing with your child all sections of the Honors English 9 Course Syllabus, including the Course of Study, please sign and return the Information and Parent Signature portion of this packet. This will count as the students' first homework grade. In addition, please feel free to contact me if you have concerns about your child and/or his or her progress.

