

**Course Syllabus**  
**Judi Payne**  
**English 9**  
**Hillcrest High School**

**Course Description**

English 9 develops student competency in English usage and mechanics, oral and written communication, and classical and contemporary literature. Topics for class activities, discussion, and presentations include poetry, the novel, essays, library research skills, short stories, and creative writing. Basic grammar skills are practiced in student writings. Students use analytical and critical thinking skills while examining the various literary forms.

**Course Requirements/ Classroom Rules**

1. All Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and Hillcrest High School rules will be enforced in my classroom.
2. Bring all materials to class. No returning to lockers.
3. No food, gum or drinks in the classroom.
4. Be in your seat and ready to begin class when the tardy bell rings.
5. You will not disrupt the environment or prevent others from learning.
6. ASK when you do not understand.
7. The DRESS CODE will be enforced in this classroom.
8. Technology can be a valuable educational resource. Students are allowed 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 can use at the designated time. Students may also use these devices to replace paperback/hard-cover novels required for class.

**Attendance Policy**

It is your responsibility to see me the day you return to school to complete missed work.

**Grading Policy**

Grades will consist of homework, class work, quizzes (announced and unannounced), organized notebooks, class participation, tests, projects, presentations, and exit slips.

This is a yearlong course (4 nine week grading periods). A mandatory comprehensive assessment will be administered at the end of the first nine-week term, the second nine-week term, and the third nine-week term. A comprehensive final examination at the end of the year (final exam) will count twenty percent (20%) of the final grade. Mandatory comprehensive final examinations will be administered to all students except those meeting the exemption criteria. Please see the *Parent-Student Information Guide* for final exam exemption policy. The final grade for a student meeting the exemption criteria will be determined from the average of the four nine weeks' grades.

## **Course Content**

- \*Tests and/or quizzes will be given after material is covered.
- \*Writing assignments and/or essays will be given accordingly.
- \*Vocabulary tests will be given accordingly

## **Literature**

Gordon Korman's *Son of the Mob* (\*\*You must purchase this novel on your own.)

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel

Various works from the literature which include the following:

Homer's *Odyssey*

William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

## **Grammar**

Parts of Speech, Parts of the Sentence, Subject-Verb Agreement, Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement, Phrases, Clauses, Modifiers, Regular/Irregular Verbs, Capitalization, Punctuation, Usage, Pronoun Case, Fragments, Run-ons, Double negatives, Commonly Confused Words, Noun and Verb forms, Verb Tense, Active/ Passive Voice, Parallel Structure, and MLA Documentation

## **Composition**

The Writing Process; Literary Analysis essays; Descriptive, Narrative, Expository and Persuasive Essays; The Research Paper; and Personal Writing

## **Materials and Textbooks**

*Literature: The Reader's Choice*

*Elements of Language*

Large three-ring binder notebook (hard cover)

College ruled loose-leaf paper

Dividers for notebook:

- Daily Grammar Practice; Vocabulary; Grammar; Literature; Writing; Reference

Black pens, pencils, highlighters, white out

Optional—1 pack of copy paper

## **Contact Information:**

E-mail: jpayne@tcss.net

Phone: 342-2800

Prep period: 11:35-12:30

Progress Reports: sent home the middle of each nine-week grading period

INOW: This tool will be used daily for lesson plans and grades will be recorded in a timely manner.

**IMPORTANT: KEEP EVERYTHING ORGANIZED IN YOUR NOTEBOOK; I DO NOT GIVE STUDY GUIDES FOR ANY EXAMS. YOUR NOTEBOOK IS YOUR STUDY GUIDE!!!!**

**Additional Information**

All policies of the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and Hillcrest High School regarding misconduct and attendance will be followed in this course. After reading and reviewing all sections of the English 9 Course Syllabus with your child, please sign and return the portion below.

Please be aware that reading is an imperative part of achieving success in this course. You are required to keep up with the reading assignments for this class even when you return to school. It is advised that you keep that literature book or novel in which we are reading with you at all times.

In signing this, you are also acknowledging that you are aware that your child is responsible for having a copy of the novel *Son of the Mob* by Gordon Korman no later than Tuesday, September 9, 2015. This novel may be borrowed from a former student, or it may be purchased on the Internet or from a local bookstore. Please order soon enough to allow time for delivery.

This signature page must be returned to Mrs. Payne!

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Student's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

English period \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_