

Welcome to English 9! The following course overview is designed to acquaint you with the course content, requirements, expectations, and classroom policies. I look forward to having a great semester!

COURSE OVERVIEW

The purpose of the course is to learn to read and write more effectively. Therefore, we will be writing and reading extensively using a number of different formats. We will identify and react to the key ideas and underlying assumptions found in models of good writing. We will also deal with grammar, punctuation, diction, structure, and style along with techniques for composing and revising areas where students in the class seem to be having difficulties.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- **Texts:** Prentice Hall's Literature (green), Holt's Elements of Literature (brown-class only), and Literature workbook
 - *Each student is responsible for the texts signed out in their name from the library
 - *Books will be kept at home unless otherwise notified.
- **Materials:** A 70 paged, college-ruled spiral notebook, folder, pens, pencils, sticky notes, and multi-colored highlighters pkg.

All materials must be brought to class everyday. Participation points will be lost if you are not prepared not learn and participate!

COURSE GRADING SYSTEM - The following averaged point system is used:

- **Homework (average range 5-40 points) /Participation**

Homework is an integral part of your grade. You will be creating an interactive notebook that will contain both your class notes (right side) and homework assignments (left side). I will grade you on the level of completion, the format, and the quality of your work.

 - *All work must be completed on time. I will only honor ½ credit for assignments before the unit test. No credit once the unit test is given.
 - *If you are absent, it is your responsibility to complete all missed work and submit it in a timely manner.
 - *Check the homework calendar, homework tray, and ask your classmates for missed notes/worksheets.
 - *You are held accountable for all work unless otherwise noted by the teacher.
- **Quizzes (average range 5-20 points)**

Expect daily quizzes on the subject matter covered in the previous class. Since quizzes will be given at my discretion, study for quizzes by reviewing notes from the day before. If you prepare ahead of time, they will not be a surprise!
- **Essays (average range 50-100 points)**

This course requires each student to complete 3 writing modes + 1 research paper per semester. Each essay will go through a writing process. Some steps will be completed in class. When submitting the final draft, all parts must be attached in order to receive a final grade.

- **Projects (average range 50-100 points)**
Short and long term projects will be assigned each semester. This may included your writing portfolio, independent reading assignments, and unit projects.
- **Unit Tests (100 points)**
Tests will be announced and given at the end of each completed unit. **Any assignments due from absences or missing must be turned in before each unit test in order to receive credit. I will not accept anything after the day of the unit test.**
- **Final Exam (200 points)**

GRADING

Grades will be posted at my discretion. The following % equals the grade for the course:

98 – 100 = A+	89 – 88 = B+	79 – 78 = C+	69 – 68 = D+
94 – 97 = A	84 – 87 = B	74 – 77 = C	64 – 67 = D
90 – 93 = A-	80 – 83 = B-	70 – 73 = C-	60 – 63 = D-

**Grades will be posted approximately every 3 weeks. Grades will not be given/discussed individually during class. Students need to make an appointment to discuss their grade with me before school, during brunch, or after school.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Every member of the class will respect students/teacher’s opinions, feelings, and space. You choose your behavior; thus, you choose your consequences.

- Attendance is required. After 8 absences, I will contact your parents through a letter. Please be warned that the attendance policy adopted by Saugus states that excessive tardiness and/or absences can result in an “F” grade for any course regardless of the students’ current letter grade.
- Promptness is expected *before the bell*. If you have accumulated more than 3 tardies, a 1hr detention will be issued.
*If detentions are not served **for whatever reason**, this is considered a form of defiance and you will receive a Saturday school.
- Constructive participation is mandatory. However, any interference in classroom learning will not be tolerated and will result in a form of disciplinary action. Avoid inappropriate classroom comments, doing other classwork, language, attitude, and behavior.
- Electronic equipment (cell phones, iPods, etc) is a privilege, not a right. All electronic equipment should be turn off and removed from sight. Students caught using electronic equipment will result in disciplinary action. This will be noted in their file and possibly assigned Saturday school.
- Please avoid eating or drinking in class. Recycle your waste in the appropriate bin.
- Respect the objects in the room. This includes the texts and supplies. If you mistreat them, your privileges will be revoked.

The teacher reserves the right to use her discretion regarding classroom occurrences. If you have any questions, please ask!

ENGLISH VIDEO PERMISSION SLIP & SYLLABUS REVIEW

Dear parents/ guardians:

Our school district is interested in increasing communication between parents and teachers regarding the use of movies in the classroom. In order to enhance the understanding of the literature studied from the 9th English core, theatrical commercial titles may be shown in their entirety and/or in clips. **All videos/clips will be previewed by the teacher before its viewing.**

If you object to your student viewing any of the titles, please note this below. An alternate activity will be provided. Below are a list of works tentatively scheduled to be shown in class along with the rating, the producer, and a brief description of the objectives for viewing the work. Monthly homework calendar provided to the student will confirm their showing.

Thank You.

- ◆ _____ *Shakespeare's Globe*, **not rated** Clips only. Used to discuss the impact of theater on our culture
- ◆ _____ *Why Shakespeare?* **Documentary by Lawrence Bridges** Clips only. Used to generate a discussion about the relevancy of Shakespeare today.
- ◆ _____ *Romeo and Juliet (Zeffereilli 1968)*, **rated PG-13** The movie will reinforce our discussion on character depiction and plot development.
- ◆ _____ *William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (Baz Luhrmann 1996)*, **rated PG-13** The movie will reinforce our discussion on character depiction and plot development.
- ◆ _____ *Of Mice and Men (MGM, 1988)*, **rated P-13**. This work will be shown in its entirety in order to accompany the novel. Full-length movie.
- ◆ _____ *Troy (2004)* Only the invasion scene with the Trojan horse will be shown.
- ◆ _____ *The Odyssey (NBC TV Version 1997)*, **not rated** It will accompany the Odyssey unit. Only clips from particular scenes will be used.

-----CUT HERE-----

I have read and given my permission to everything listed above and in the class syllabus. I have CHECKED any movie that I DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION for my student to watch. I understand that an alternative assignment will be given.

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Student Name

Student Signature

I have also included my email address for you to contact me regarding this issue, my student's grade and/or to be on the class website mailing.
