

Course Overview: English 9

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Course Description:

This course is designed to reinforce the foundations of communication – listening, speaking, reading, and writing – cloaked in critical thinking. In real-people language, that means that we'll expose ourselves to new ideas, we'll generate ideas of our own, and we'll continue to develop ways of communicating those to others.

Our focus will be on literary analysis, a means of reading texts deeply and from a variety of perspectives, and on writing, with the hope that such endeavors will prepare us well to be citizens of an ever-changing world. So, whether you wish to be a mechanical engineer, a master chef, or an MD, these skills will serve you well.

We will examine the effect of time period and cultural context on literary works, whether stories of the past can resonate today, and how literary journeys might assist us as we write the stories of our own lives.

Major Texts:

The study of the elements of literature based upon the reading and critiquing of short stories, poetry, plays and novels forms the foundation for literary analysis and writing assignments. Major texts include, but are not limited to:

Mythology
The Odyssey

Julius Caesar
To Kill a Mockingbird

Plus additional works of short fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama (stage/film/TV)

Assignments:

- √ Reading like your life depends on it (which it does)
- √ Moderate writing assignments & full-blown essays (including research project)
- √ Group & individual projects/exhibitions
- √ Journals (Need 2 notebooks: 1 for notes & 1 for journal – Hard copy or Digital okay)
- √ Exams & Quizzes
- √ Final Portfolio of collected writings, revisions & reflections

Over →

Assessment:

Grades are calculated as a percentage of total points for the term, with larger assignments garnering more points (e.g. exams, essays & large projects typically = 100 points; lighter written work such as daily homework & quizzes typically = 10 to 50 points). So, if there are 1,000 points available and you receive 900, then you have 90%.

You will also receive a *Contribution Grade* every quarter totaling 50 points. This will assess your active participation in class discussions. For this assessment you can receive the following points: *Leader* = 50, *Also Ran* = 37, *Spectator* = 25. If you have concerns about your ability to share in class discussions, you can see me about supplementing your contribution with written work that I will copy to share with the rest of our learning community.

Final percentages will be converted to Mercy's letter grade system each term.

NO LATE WORK: You must submit all daily work on time or receive no credit. Deadlines matter outside our classroom walls, so they should matter inside our walls, as well. To be an active citizen in a democracy, you must meet the very important deadline of getting to the polls on election day, or your voice will not be heard. If you have your act together, however, there is an exception called an Absentee Ballot, a concept we will discuss in class & incorporate into this policy to assist you.

You must submit all major written work to pass the course.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is stealing someone else's ideas or work and presenting them as your own. It is a serious offense which is unethical, violates the rules of student conduct, and may be a violation of copyright law. Whenever you borrow information for a paper, you must give proper reference and cite your sources. This gives proper credit to the creator of the work, it allows the reader to locate the original information, and it lends credibility to your work.

IF YOU PLAGIARIZE, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THAT ASSIGNMENT AND, POTENTIALLY, A FAILING GRADE FOR THAT TERM.

Expectations:

Responsibility.....Have it

Respect.....Exhibit it & Earn it

Rip-Roarin' Fun...Enjoy it

(Student signature)

(Parent/Guardian signature)