

English 9 Honors
Course Outline 2009-2010
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Course Description and Goals

The ninth grade English Honors program is an accelerated, sequential program that runs for four years. Students will be exposed to a challenging curriculum in the areas of grammar, literature, vocabulary, and writing which includes the research paper and DSTP (NWEA) preparation. Course work aligns with state and district standards.

Grammar and usage is studied and assessed in various ways throughout the year. Areas of prime concern include subject-verb agreement, pronoun-antecedent agreement, parallelism, shift in tense, and diction.

Composition focuses on the mastery of expository writing with emphasis on the persuasive, the compare/contrast, and the cause/effect essay. Creative writing assignments may include poetry and short stories (time willing). The research paper using MLA documentation will be introduced as per district guidelines.

Literature includes the study of drama, short stories, poetry, and novels.

Vocabulary instruction will be taught using the Sadlier-Oxford *Vocabulary Workshop* Level E. This is done only in the Honors classes. (We charge each student approximately \$9.00 at the beginning of the year. Books will be issued upon receipt of payment. Please see me or email me with any concerns on this matter.)

Instructional Objectives (SWBAT) Students will be able to do the following:

1. to apply the fundamentals of correct grammar and usage into their writing so that their district and state test scores improve.
2. to compose a multi-paragraph essay on demand or as a long range assignment.
3. to research using the library and the computer to produce a research paper using parenthetical documentation as per MLA guidelines.
4. to analyze, discuss, and relate to short stories, novels, drama, and poetry.
5. to read Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* out loud with proper intonation and understanding.
6. to utilize new vocabulary words in a).their writing to increase writing proficiency and b).their reading to improve comprehension.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to do the following:

1. attend all classes on time. Any excusals from class (i.e. student council, violin, etc.) must be done with prior permission from me. If not, the absence will be treated as a cut.
2. make up all work within the time frame allowed by the Student Code of Conduct (one day for one day's absence, two days for two days' absence, etc.).
3. complete and turn in all assignments at the beginning of class. Late work might receive partial credit but must be done within a week of the original

- due date. Tests should be made up within a week of initial administration. (Extenuating circumstances should be addressed to me in a timely manner).
4. contribute to all classes by paying attention, asking and responding to pertinent questions, and participating in discussions and other group activities.
 5. read books outside of class. (At least one independent reading assignment from the district's Core Reading List will be required.)
 6. write essays and major assignments in blue or black ink. If word processed, remember to double space.
 7. seek help in a timely manner. Please do not be afraid to ask me, your parents, other teachers, administrators, friends, whomever for any type of help.
 8. keep a planner. A small assignment pad in one's back pocket or shirt, to a large spiral sized calendar, to a handheld electronic organizer (please defer to the school policy here), or the school's planner would all be acceptable.
 9. adhere to the Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Board and distributed to each student at the beginning of the year.

Texts and Materials

Grammar	<i>English 2600</i>
Short stories and poetry	<i>Elements of Literature (2007)</i> - Hardback text http://my.hrw.com -Online text
Vocabulary	<i>Vocabulary Workshop</i> (Level E) and text
Novels	<i>Animal Farm</i> (or other novel unit)
Drama	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Epic Poem	<i>The Odyssey</i>
Selected videos, filmstrips, musical selections, oral readings, and miscellaneous teacher prepared materials and power point presentations will be included.	

School Supplies

1. Spiral notebook with folders just for English **or** a three-ring binder with dividers.
2. Blue, black, red ink pens.
3. Index cards
4. White out

Work Presentation: Please observe the following guidelines for formatting your work:

1. Name, date, and assignment written on top left of 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper.
2. If word processing, skip lines. If handwriting, write legibly.
3. Edges of paper must be clean with no rough edges. Torn, crinkled, nonstandard size paper will not be accepted.
4. Blue or black ink is standard for the Red Clay Consolidated School District.

District Grade Access and Mrs. Mancari's Grading System:

Grades are available online at the Home Access Center (HAC) by using the

following address:

<https://hac.doe.k12.de.us>

Please note that I do not have access to this web. This is for parents and their children.

District guidelines stipulate the following guidelines

-a minimum of 10 grades/ marking period one of which is summative

-5 work days-quizzes, tests, daily assignments

-10 work days-essays, essay tests, research papers, marking period projects

The English marking period grade is based on a point system. The number of points earned during the nine weeks is totaled and divided by the potential number of points to arrive at a percentage.

Grading Opportunities

Earnable Points

Class participation / Bonus

up to 25 points/mp

Class work

10 points/assignment

Homework

10-20 points

Quizzes

20-50 points

Tests

100 points

Writing Assignments/Projects

20-200 points

The **final grade** is determined by the average of the four marking periods (20% each), the midterm (10%), and the final exam (10%). It is strongly recommended that a student maintain a B average in the English Honors program.

Parents:

Please continue to nurture and encourage your sons and daughters by providing them with supervised study time. Some of you may need to hover, while others of you may need to give space. Be observant of individual needs. This is understandably a transitional year. Ask if there are any concerns. Best wishes to all and good luck!

Camilla B. Mancari, M.Ed.

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