



**Ninth Grade English - Course Overview**  
**Alexis I. DuPont High School: 2009-2010 School Year**  
**Ms. Dwornik (lauren.dwornik@redclay.k12.de.us)**

**ENGLISH CONTENT STANDARDS:**

This course is aligned with (1) the Delaware public schools English Language Arts Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations and (2) the Red Clay Consolidated School District English Language Arts Curriculum Alignment Map. A major underpinning of the course is differentiated instruction; therefore, the course is regularly adjusted and adapted to meet the instructional needs of each student. In the words of Aristotle, “What we have to learn to do we learn by doing.”

**CORE READING:**

The reading in this class may include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following texts (or excerpts from the texts):

- Essays by Albert Einstein, Gary Soto, and others
- Poems by Julia Alvarez, Maya Angelou, e. e. cummings, Emily Dickinson, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Alice Walker, William Wordsworth, James Wright, and others
- Short Stories by Ray Bradbury, Eugenia Collier, Richard Connell, O. Henry, Guy de Maupassant, Liam O’Flaherty, Edgar A. Poe, and others
- The Odyssey* by Homer
- The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

**TEXTBOOK:**

*Elements of Literature*. Third Course. Holt, Reinhart and Winston: 2007.

**ESCHOOLPLUS ONLINE GRADEBOOK, ASSIGNMENT POINT STRUCTURE and MAKE-UP WORK:**

Eschoolplus is a grade management system used by our district. Teachers, students, and parents/guardians have access to the web site, which reports each student’s assignments, respective grades, and overall average. Every student will be given a password to access his/her grades; the student’s parents/guardians will receive information in the mail about the grade book which will include the passwords necessary to access the system.

Because of the ease and efficiency of the gradebook program, each student is responsible for monitoring his/her own work and grades (that is not to say that they will not be discussed in class). In addition, each student is responsible for obtaining his/her own make-up work for absences. Students can refer to the weekly preview to determine what work was missed on their day(s) of absence.

Each assignment and assessment is worth a designated number of points. At the end of the

marking period, the points are added and divided by total points possible to obtain a percentile average. The point structure and predicted frequency of assignments is as follows:

5-15	each formative assessment (at least weekly)
25	each submitted writing piece (5-7 per marking period)
100	each graded writing piece (2-3 per marking period)
20	each peer editing (of writing) (2-3 per marking period)
15 - 30	each scored discussion / Socratic Seminar (4-6 per marking period)
25	each vocabulary project, presentation, or quiz (3-5 per marking period)
80 - 150	each project and/or test (2-3 per marking period)
50	DSTP reading comprehension practice test (1 test per marking period)
100	outside reading essay, presentation, or scored discussion (1 per marking period)
300	research paper writing process
300	final research paper

#### GRADING:

<b>A</b>	100 – 93%	<b>D</b>	76 – 70%
<b>B</b>	92 – 85%	<b>F</b>	69 – 0%
<b>C</b>	84 – 77%		

#### WORK PRESENTATION:

All submitted assignments must follow the MLA style headings: name, teacher, class & period, date (6 May 2007) in top left-hand corner of sheet.

**Name**  
**Teacher**  
**Class + Period**  
**Date (day-month-year)**

#### WRITING PORTFOLIO:

Each student must provide a binder in which he/she will place all writing assignments for each marking period. ***Binders will not leave the classroom under any circumstance.*** Each student's writing collection may be read by his/her peers and the teacher at any time. The writing portfolio is a work in progress which will trace the development of the particular writer.

#### RESUBMITTING WORK:

All written work can be resubmitted - ***for a higher grade*** - within a week of its return to the student. The new grade will reflect the quality of the writing of the second piece, based on the teacher's comments made on the original writing. Both pieces must be submitted in order for a paper to be re-graded.

#### EXTRA CREDIT:

Extra credit points earned will be added directly to the deserving student's total points for the relevant assignment. The teacher offers opportunities for extra credit points regularly (both in class and at home opportunities). All extra credit opportunities are based on completing academic tasks.

#### RED TICKET RAFFLE:

Students may earn a red raffle ticket - for exceptional performance, participation, or ingenuity - to be dropped in the raffle canister; biweekly a name will be selected and that student will be rewarded with

any of the following:

- 1 2 extra credit points
- 2 5 point advantage on next scored discussion
- 3 Tangible reward

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

Following the RCCSD policy, our school does not permit electronic devices to be visible or in use in the classroom or hallways. Students must turn them off and put them out of sight (in pocket or bag) during the school day. If students don't adhere to this, then the teacher will ask for the device and send it to the main office from which the parent or guardian will need to retrieve it. If a student refuses to relinquish his/her device, then the teacher will call an administrator to collect the phone.

### **EXPECTATIONS:**

The Red Clay Consolidated School District Behavior Standards are posted in the classroom. Each student is responsible for his/her conduct in class in accordance to these standards.

- 1 A single violation of any of these standards will result in a verbal warning.
- 2 A second violation of any of these standards will result in a phone call to parent/guardian.
- 3 A third violation of any of these standards will result in a behavioral referral.

Major behavioral infractions (as listed in the student code of conduct) will be immediately referred to an administrator.

In addition to the district behavioral standards, in this classroom each student is expected to:

- 1 ***Earn his/her points (you can have them all if you want them).***
- 2 ***Bring necessary materials (pen, pencil, texts, photocopied materials) to every class.***
- 3 ***Ask questions and offer thoughts.***
- 4 ***Become a better reader, writer, and thinker.***
- 5 ***Be a respectful and responsible individual.***

### **MATERIALS NEEDED FOR NINTH-GRADE ENGLISH:**

1. Two 1-2" binders: The first binder must contain loose-leaf paper, divided into four sections (one for each marking period.) In this binder, you will keep all notes, do-nows, hand-outs, quizzes, in-class activities, and homework assignments in consecutive order. I will periodically check notebooks in class to make sure you are doing so. The second binder is your Writing Portfolio. This will be stored in the Writing Portfolio closet in the classroom.
2. Several pencils and a variety of pens (different colors for peer editing)
3. At least one highlighter
4. Your agenda book: It is very important that students write one entry per day in their notebook, even if no homework is assigned.
5. Index cards: These stay with you at home, but are strongly recommended.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY / PLAGIARISM:**

Academic dishonesty- helping another to cheat or plagiarism- is a serious violation of the academic code of conduct. A student found guilty of such actions will (1) have the actions reported to his/her parent (s) or guardian(s) by the teacher, (2) receive a failing grade for the assessment in question, (3) be required to redo the assignment, (4) be reported to the national Honor Society for a violation of academic dishonesty, and (5) be required to attend a conference with his/her parents and an administrator to discuss the violation.

Please sign and return the bottom portion of this page by Thursday,  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009:

*I have read the attached syllabus and agree to meet course  
expectations and requirements as outlined therein.*

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_