**English 9**

**Syllabus 2014-2015**

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**Course Overview:**

Welcome to Freshman English. During this course we will dissect and examine the structures and uses of texts, as well as build skills in four key areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We will be working with a variety of texts including novels, poems, short stories, art, film, non-fiction articles, and more. Students will also explore writing for several purposes and audiences and will practice the conventions of grammar, spelling, and vocabulary in order to prepare for the demands of the 21st century.

**Main Texts:**

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*The Old Man and the Sea* by Earnest Hemingway

*The Odyssey* by Homer

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

These core texts will be supplemented by a number of other materials, in order to strengthen understanding and to help us make connections. Be prepared to do plenty of reading on your own outside of class.

**Course Materials:**

1. Three-ring Binder (2” or larger)

2. Pens/Pencils

3. College-ruled white lined paper

4. 5 dividers for binder

5. Post-it notes

6. USB Flash drive (optional)

7. Planner/Assignment book (optional)\*

\* Homework will be posted on the class website every day, so there is never a reason not to know what it is.

**Classroom Expectations:**

We will work together to decide what exactly these expectations entail.

Students will…

* be ready and willing to work every day.
* be open-minded, creative, and respectful.
* not inhibit any other person’s opportunity to learn.
* demonstrate academic honesty and integrity.

**Consequences** for failing to meet classroom expectations are:

* 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
* 2nd Offense: Student/Teacher conference
* 3rd Offense: Parent contact/After-School Detention
* 4th Offense: Sent to Principal/VP

**Late Work:**

All assignments should be completed on time for full credit. I do not accept late work. Life is about deadlines, if it’s late, it’s no good. If you need extra time on an assignment, you must come see me at least **two** days before the assignment is due.

**Homework:**

Homework will be assigned almost every nigh and should be completed by the beginning of class on the day it is due. Each homework assignment will usually be out of 5 points. It should be neatly written and appropriately labeled (name, date, period, and title). Occasionally, I may give reading quizzes. These will count as part of your homework grade because they will be evaluating if you did the assigned reading.

**Tardiness**:

If you are going to be late to class, you must have a pass signed by a teacher or staff member. If the tardy is unexcused, you will get a zero for the homework or classwork that you missed.

**Absences and Make-Up Work:**

For each day you are absent, you will have **ONE DAY** to make up the missing work. It is your responsibility to get and complete the assignment on time. Homework will be posted on the class website nightly. If you miss a test or quiz, you must make it up within **ONE WEEK** of its assigned date or you will receive a zero. **If you know in advance that you are going to be absent, please see me ASAP during my “office” hours so we can set up a schedule for you to make up your missed work.**

**Assignments:**

**HONORS STUDENTS SHOULD EXPECT TO COMPLETE ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS ON MOST ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS.**

* All assignments are due at the beginning of the period.
* All reading must be completed by the assigned dates. Pop quizzes are frequently given to measure reading completion and comprehension.
* No credit will be given for late homework.
* No credit will be given for work with “fringe”.
* Typing is **required** for major assignments. You must always double space, use Times New Roman size 12 font and employ one inch margins.
  + Don’t try any tricks to add length to your papers. I know them all. Come talk to me if you are having trouble meeting the length requirement of any assignment.

**\*\*\* The Library is open before and after school to print. Don’t say you don’t have a printer/ it didn’t work\*\*\*\***

**Grading:**

* Each assignment will be given a point value from 1-100.
* Grading will occur on a variety of assignments including: journals, discussion responses, oral presentations, group work, outside reading, binder checks, quizzes, tests, projects, and participation.
* All scores will be recorded in my computer/rank book. I will periodically print out grade reports for each student, so you are aware of your progress. **Progress reports must be signed by a parent upon request.**
* If you have a question or concern about your grade, please see me after school.

**Extra Help:**

I am available before and after school every day, unless called away for a school related meeting. I want to be here for all my students and I know that some people have obligations in the afternoons, so with appointment I would be happy to meet with anyone before school. Students are encouraged to stay for extra assistance on any assignment he or she is struggling with. This is also the time to discuss returned work, grades, or any other issues that may arise. Any parent or guardian who would like to meet, please email/call ahead to schedule a time.

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**Syllabus Contract**

**Please read and sign below, indicating your agreement with the syllabus:**

I have read the class syllabus thoroughly, and I understand it to be a contract for my year in this class. I understand the expectations that my teacher has for me, behavior-wise and academically, and I will meet them or accept the consequences.

Student Signature:

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I have read this class syllabus thoroughly, and I understand it to be a contract for my son or daughter’s year in this class. I will do everything that I can to encourage him/her to follow the rules and perform to this best of his/her ability so that he/she can succeed in this class.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

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**Please return to Ms. Jardon by Monday, September 8 at the beginning of class. This will count as a homework grade.**