Mr. Parsons
Honors English 9
Syllabus 2012-2013
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# Course Overview

Honors English Language Arts 9 emphasizes communication skills, reading, writing, listening and speaking. The course is designed to challenge ninth graders and give each student the opportunity to explore and discover his or her own potential. In addition, this is a writing intensive course; therefore, the students will be exposed to various steps of the writing process. The students will engage in varied writing assignments and assessments that will further demonstrate their skills as a writer. **As honors students, you should be prepared for a fast-paced class and in-depth studies of the works we read. It is crucial that you do not fall behind. I am available for extra help, but you need to make an appointment.**

**Supplies**

1. Spiral Notebook and Composition Book

2. Pens/Pencils

3. Three-ring Binder (1” or larger)

4. 5 dividers for binder

5. Post-it notes (3 colors preferred)

6. USB Flash drive

7. Planner/Assignment book\*

\* Students will have homework regularly.  It is expected that they bring their planners to class everyday.

**Classroom Expectations and Consequences**

In this classroom, you are expected:

* To have an open mind and be creative!
* To be on time and be sitting quietly in your seat when the bell rings;
* To always come to class prepared with binder, paper, pens/pencils, appropriate textbooks, completed assignments, and any other materials that you are instructed to bring (Additionally, always have with you something to read should you have free time);
* To follow all directions given by the teacher or included on an assignment;
* To meet all deadlines (Assignments are due at the beginning of each class on the due date);
* To be academically honest (plagiarizing and cheating will NOT be tolerated);
* To respect other students and the teacher by being attentive when others are speaking, raising your hand to speak, and not being disruptive;
* To be courteous to others by respecting their personal space;
* To actively participate in group discussions and activities; and
* To follow ALL school rules as described in the Student Handbook.

**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 Offence: 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.

*Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.*

*~William Shakespeare*

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned almost every day and should be completed by the beginning of class on the day it is due. It should be neatly written and appropriately labeled. 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. Sometimes homework will be graded for correctness, but most often it will be graded using a check system:

√ = Satisfactory (Full Credit – Homework is neat, complete, readable, and shows effort)

√- = Unsatisfactory (Half Credit – Homework is messy and shows little effort)

X = Unacceptable (No Credit – Homework is missing, mostly incomplete, or unreadable)

**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 class work that you missed.

**Absences**

Work missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made up. An exception may be made in the case of a major test should you gain approval from me at least one week prior to the intended absence. In the case of an excused absence, you will have one day for every excused absence to make up work as long as you immediately bring me signed note from a parent/guardian. Regardless if you miss class, homework assignments will be posted online on my class site. **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**

* 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 ripped out of a spiral bound notebook.
* No credit will be given for work done in ink other than blue or black.
* For paragraphs/rough drafts, write only on one side of the paper, and always skip lines.
* 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. The more points an assignment is worth, the greater weight it has on your quarter grade.
* Grading will occur on a variety of assignments including: journals, learning logs, discussion responses, oral presentations, group work, outside reading, notebook checks, quizzes, tests, projects, presentations 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, or lack thereof, in this class. **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 from 2:15-2:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday, unless called away for a school related meeting. I also get to school early, usually by 7am. 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.

**Honors English 9**

**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 Mr. Parsons by Friday, September 13 at the beginning of class. This will count as a homework grade.**