JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE SYLLABUS
Department of English Language Art

English 9

General Information:
Fall Semester 2012 and Spring 2013
Gregory Young, English Instructor
Room C212
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Course Description
English 9 introduces students to various literary genres and practices and builds English language skill. The goal of the class is to create an English language foundation in which the student smoothly transitions into college preparatory classes, and prepares them to pass the California High School Exit Exam in the 10th grade, as well as the PSAT, SAT, and AP exams. In order for this to occur, the students must attend the class, pay attention, take notes, do the work and complete the tests.

Course Curriculum
1) English 9 is designed to prepare students for the rigorous reading and writing that will be required of them in high school. This course will help students present their own ideas verbally and in writing. Students will be able to apply themes in literature to their own life, develop critical thinking skills and test taking skills, recognize Latin and Greek based words, and develop a firm base used in academic writing.

2) The students will have ample exposure to various forms of literature (both fiction and non-fiction). Their appreciation and understanding of both modern and traditional literary classics will be enhanced by effective reading strategies, which promote good comprehension as well as higher order thinking skills.

3) As they study literary analysis through the understanding of such literary concepts as plot, theme, characterization, setting, point of view, foreshadowing, symbolism, tone, style and inference (as well as various literary techniques and devices writers use to communicate ideas) they will enhance their reading comprehension.

4) To become fluent student writers by producing a product that is meaningful to both the writer and his/her readers demonstrating an understanding and application of the rules of Standard English grammar, mechanics, usage and rhetoric.

5) I will foster a positive and cooperative classroom environment wherein students will listen and speak to one another, as well as to the teacher and others, with courtesy and consideration for the values, needs and differences of each person.

6) OUTSIDE READING: Students will be expected to complete one book report a month every semester. Some books will be open to student choice and others will be assigned.
Course goals and objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Appreciate poetry by reading, analyzing and writing it.
- Read a range of grade-level informational/expository, as well as literary material with understanding and significance.
- Use vocabulary that is specific and appropriate to purpose, topic and audience
- Define and apply key literary terms
- Participate in the whole process of writing from analyzing thesis, generating ideas, organizing, drafting, revising, proofreading and completing the final draft.
- Use appropriate spelling, punctuation, grammar and syntax in all work
- Research a topic using primary and secondary sources and verifying the accuracy of information
- Prepare and present a formal speech
- Use traditional and emerging technology to enhance reading, writing and speaking.

Course Requirements:
Students will be required to do the following work:

- Breakdown sentences into the four levels of grammar as outlined in Thompson’s Magic lens in their notebook
- Read one book of their choice per month (and turn in a book report on that book) and respond to a writing prompt
- Read assigned texts
- Participate positively in all classroom activities
- Listen actively and respect other people’s differences and opinions
- Do in-class exercises, quizzes and other activities
- Write a letter to the teacher, personal narrative, descriptive short story, and a persuasive or research paper.

Attendance/Tardy Policies
Every student is expected to attend every class on time every day unless the student is required to be absent for a valid excuse. Truancy, unverified and unexcused absences, excessive absences, and tardies affect the student’s education and increase the chances for failure. Tardies interrupt and interfere with the learning environment for all students and the teaching opportunities for teachers. Three tardies will become one detention.

Grading Policy:
I keep my grades on the computer and give out class grades every week or two, so that the students are nearly always aware of their grade. In this way, they can make up missing work.

Make-Up Work:
Students are responsible for all make-up work. They are to make arrangements to get missed assignments and to take make-up quizzes and test, before or after the school day, with Mr.
Young. After two school days after an absence, make-up time will not be available. Please do not ask during class for make-up work.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated.

The John F. Kennedy English Department does not tolerate plagiarism of any kind. Students who are caught representing another writer’s thoughts or words as his or her own should expect to receive no credit for the assignment, a U in citizenship and if encountered on a final exam, fail the course.

PARENT/TEACHER CONTACTS: If you would like to contact me any time during the school year, please leave a phone message for me at (433-5200 ext.1212) or email me at gregory-young@scusd.edu. I am available for parent conferences during my prep period and after school. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns regarding your student’s behavior, performance, assignments or attendance in my class.