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

English 9P, 5 units per semester

General Information:  
Fall Semester 2015 and Spring 2016  
Mary-Jo Baniecki, English Instructor  
Room C306  
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Course Description  
English 9P introduces students to various literary genres and practices and builds English language skills (reading, writing, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, spelling and vocabulary development.) This class applies multiple instructional strategies so that the student can make connections between particular lessons and understand content. The goal of the class is to create a language foundation in which the student smoothly transitions into upper level classes.

Possible literature for the year, including books, plays and films  
Texts include: The Holt anthology Elements of Literature 3rd Course, Magic Lens Grammar, Jane Shaffer Writing program, The WRITE Institute, Prestwick House Vocabulary and the following novels: The Pearl, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Speak and Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet. Articles, advertising and film will supplement. Independent reading books will be available in the classroom and the John F. Kennedy library.

Course Curriculum  
English 9 is designed to prepare students for the rigorous reading and writing that will be required of them in their adult life. 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. Course content - vocabulary, short stories, grammar, and elements of literature, novels, plays and poetry - provides students with multiple opportunities to practice and master Common Core standards.

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 a book of their choice 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, autobiographical narrative, descriptive short story, a persuasive or research paper and numerous in-class reflections. The Jane Shaffer writing process will be used in academic writing.

**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 tardiness affect the student's education and increase the chances for failure. Tardiness interrupts and interferes with the learning environment for all students and the teaching opportunities for teachers. Three tardies will become one detention.

**Supplies**
Students will need to bring the following items to class with them each day
*All students are required to have a pocketed folder to keep all English material
*Pencils and pens (dark blue and/or black ink only, please)
*highlighters, glue sticks, post-its notes can be useful in class but are not required.

Grading System
Each assignment, quiz or test is accorded a given number of points. For example, essays – 120 points, spelling test – 25-50 points, literature quiz – 20 points, Magic Lens and SSR – 5 points each day etc. At the end of each grading period, the possible points are totaled in order to compute the percentage into a letter grade equivalent. 90% or above equals an A; 80% a B; 70% a C, 60% a D, and less an F. The student’s points are tallied to place him on the scale grade-wise.

Grading Policy:
I keep my grades on the computer using the Infinite Campus program 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, preferably before the school day, with Ms. Baniecki. After one week after an absence, make-up time will not be available. Please do not ask during class for make-up work.

Class Expectations: I am committed to the success of each student and that means having a workable classroom.
1. Be on time, prepared and ready to go with all required materials when the bell rings. I expect students to bring a pen and binder paper to class.
2. Participate, take risks, and do not be afraid to make mistakes!
3. Be respectful of your teacher, your classmates, other teachers and administrators, your school, and anything that does not belong to you. Disrespect in any form will result in disciplinary action.
4. Turn off and put away all electronic devices. Do not try to hide your electronic devices. Desks should also be clear of purses, backpacks, and clothing. Please do not try to charge your cellphone in class.
5. No food in classroom.
6. Clean up after group and individual activities.
7. Behave safely in class.
8. Exhibit self-control. Please do not sing, change seats, or move randomly around the room.
9. 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.

After reading this syllabus with your parent or guardian, please print this page and fill out the section below. (Be sure to print all required information neatly.) Bring this portion of Ms. Baniecki’s Syllabus to class by September 8th, 2015

English 9
Ms. Baniecki
Period ____________

(Printed student name) Printed Parent Signature)

(Student Signature) (Parent Signature)