



2019--2020 COURSE SYLLABUS

Mary-Jo Baniecki

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Room C303

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ENGLISH 9

English 9 classes provide students with instruction in the five elements of communication (reading, writing, thinking, speaking and listening.) This course will teach students to critique literature in relation to author and historical time periods, as well as the structure and format of the language. Along with the academic standards based communications skills, the course will also prepare students in terms of the three other school wide outcomes: Critical Thinking, Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility.

Texts

Texts include: Pearson's California My Perspectives textbooks, Magic Lens Grammar, Jane Shaffer Writing program, Prestwick House Power Plus Vocabulary, units from the Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) which is a college preparatory, rhetoric-based English language arts course designed to develop academic literacy (advanced proficiency in rhetorical and analytical reading, writing, and thinking). *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, and Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet" will also be read. Excerpts from articles, advertising and film will supplement. Other selections from Recommended Literature, Grades Nine through Twelve may be included in the curriculum. Sustained Silent Reading books will be available in the classroom.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the school year, you should be able to do the following.

- Read and interpret literary works.
- Write descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive paragraphs and essays.
- Analyze the elements of a novel, poem, short story, drama, and non-fiction through discussion and written compositions.
- Include standard grammar usage in oral and written works.
- Expand vocabulary knowledge

Required Materials:

A 2 pocket folder specifically for English, blue or black pens, a pencil for quizzes and tests and lined paper. Post-it notes, a highlighter are helpful.

Grading Policy:

All assignments are worth points and grades will be calculated based on the amount of points earned in each category. Work will be divided into the following categories: Sustained Silent Reading, Writing Applications, Classwork and Homework, Presentations and Tests and Quizzes.

This course requires daily reading and writing. Writing tasks range from short, timed quick writes to longer pieces that are taken through the writing process and may take a week or more to complete. Longer writing pieces are evaluated using English department-wide rubrics. Classwork, in-class essays and presentations must either be typed or written in pen. Homework must be completed when you walk in the door the day it is due. (Make up tests must be scheduled with the teacher immediately upon your return to school. You are responsible for making sure late homework and late tests are completed in a timely manner.)

In addition, there will be weekly vocabulary tests.

Grading Scale - A (90-100%) B(80-89%) C(70-79%) D(60-69%) F(0-59%)

Weekly, I will be posting an update to our Infinite Campus grading program. I allow myself a two week window for larger writing assignments. Check Infinite Campus regularly and if you notice a discrepancy, please see me.

Class Expectations

1. Be present in class, be curious, always try your best.
2. Be on time, sit in your assigned seat, prepared and ready to go with all required materials when the bell rings.
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. Taking pictures or video in class is prohibited. Desks should also be cleared of purses, backpacks, and clothing. Occasionally, cell phone usage will be allowed but only for academic purposes.
5. Food is only allowed in the hallways. Please do not eat in class.
6. Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. (See plagiarism/Cheating Policy on the next page)
7. Participate, take risks, and do not be afraid to make mistakes!
7. Do not change or move your seat unless directed by the teacher. Moving your seat without permission could lead to being marked absent and is looked at as defiant.

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. If you know that you will be absent, please email me and I will create a make up packet for you. The best time to talk to me about make up work is before school. I am usually in our classroom at least 45 minutes before school. Always keep up on our classwork. It is also helpful to have a classmate who can let you know what you have missed in class.

Extra Help:

If you need help with something we are doing in class, please set up a time to see me. I am usually available before school daily. John F. Kennedy also has the Literary Lab that is open before and after school on most days. The Literacy Lab is a fantastic resource for help on all work.

The principal reserves the right to modify and/or change the course syllabus as needed during the course.



English 9 Ms. Baniecki

**After reading this syllabus with your parent,
please return this completed paper to Ms.
Baniecki on September 5, 2019**

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Print parent/guardian name: _____

**I have read the course syllabus and discussed it with my parents. I agree to the
policies set forth.**

Student Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Print student name: _____ **period 2**

