



2023-2024 COURSE SYLLABUS

English 9 & 12

joe-spatafore@scusd.edu

Course Description: Reading, writing and communicating effectively are absolutely essential to maintaining freedom, justice and dignity in our world. Further, we develop a powerful understanding of ourselves—and our world—by studying literature and other texts. English 9 is a Grammar/Literature based class in the Robotics program, while English 12 is an ERWC and Grammar/Literature based class.

Learning Goals: Students engaged in these courses will grow to be dynamic writers, critical thinkers and strong readers. They will develop the language arts skills necessary to succeed in college, the workplace and society. Students will exhibit mastery of the standards set by the State of California (Common Core). They will be ready to write college-level essays about small and large literature pieces assigned as well as other texts that they will read/use. Each student will learn or improve the ability to comprehend and analyze written work, use grammar appropriately in written assignments, write college level papers, and learn/use core standards at grade level.

Textbook: These classes at both levels may use both units from ERWC (12 English) as text materials and various supplemental materials that will be available in Google Classroom. We will use various novels, grammar texts and short reading assignments to develop skills.

Required Materials: Along with your computer, or district assigned laptop you will need the ability to log in, run programs, and send back materials for the class. You must be able to upload assignments through Google Classroom to have your work assessed in this class.

Grading Policy: We will use the current SCUSD grading scale for this class. The grading scale is as follows:

- A 89.5% Up
- B 79.5%-89.49%
- C 69.5%-79.49%
- D 60%-69.49%
- F 50%-59.99%

Missing Assignment Final Grade Policy: If at the end of the quarter or the semester grading period, if the student chooses not to turn in any more than **ONE (1) Quiz/Test, ONE (1) Essay/Writing Assignment or The Quarter/Semester Written & Oral Book Report Assignment**, the student's quarter/semester grade will not be higher than a "C" regardless of the grade percentage. This is a College Prep English course and these assignments are necessary to show college level readiness.

Classwork/Homework: General Classwork or Homework assignments are worth 10 points if collected. General daily classwork and homework will be graded on a flat scale 10, 8 or 6 depending on the amount and the quality of the work turned in by the student. Not all assignments are collected on a daily basis. As I tell students, "Not everything in life is worth points."

Class Novels: English 9 & 12 will have class novels assigned that will tie into units of ERWC or as stand-alone assignments. These novels tie into the time frame of the literature curriculum assigned during class. The novels will be available in digital form for Students as links or downloads for fair and equal access.

Individual Novels: Each student will read one or more individually selected novels per quarter. The student will be required to show understanding of the selected novel by preparing and participating in **both** a written and an oral book report assignment.

