

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The English 9 course in literature and composition engages students in the careful reading and analysis of all genres of literature (short story, poetry, novel, etc.). By reading selected literary works, students deepen their understanding and enhance their pleasure in literature. Students analyze a variety of aspects of literature to derive meaning from their experience of reading. Students consider literary works in relation to their own lives and experience as well.

COURSE GOALS

- to prepare students for in-depth analysis of literary genres such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and drama
- to polish grammar skills
- to develop good skills for writing multi-paragraph essays
- to expand vocabulary

PROCEDURES FOR BEGINNING CLASS

- Enter the classroom in an orderly manner. Report to your seat BEFORE the bell rings.
- Roll is taken immediately after the tardy bell rings. Absences and tardies are recorded at this time. Any tardy student must present a note of explanation. Unexcused tardiness to class is NOT allowed. Each unexcused tardy results in a demerit.
- Bring appropriate texts and materials to class everyday:

Main Texts— Elements of Literature: Third Course
Vocabulary Workshop: Level D

Materials—three-ring binder for daily notes (divided into: Objectives/Homework, Notes, and Assessments)

2 packs of college rule loose leaf paper (8.5"x11")

1 ream of printer paper (8.5"x11")

Black/white composition notebook (Reading Log)

Blue or black pens (work written in pencil will be penalized)

1 Pack of index cards (a type of organizer, such as a ring, is highly advised)

Outside Readings—when we are reading a novel, it should be brought to class every day

- Each day, students should note the day's objective and homework assignment. Students may either write the homework assignment in his or her binder OR agenda, but it must be written daily.
- If a journal topic is written on the board, students will immediately collect their journals and begin to respond in their Reflection Journals when class begins.
- Students will remain in their seats until dismissed.
- Students will act in a respectful manner towards the teacher, each other, and themselves.

GRADING, EXAMS, AND RESEARCH PAPER

- Averages for each grading period (9 weeks) are as follows:
MAJOR GRADES (50%)--tests, major writing assignments, special projects, some Reading Log assignments, Reflection Journal
MINOR GRADES (30%)--quizzes (literature and vocabulary), some small group work, short essays, longer homework assignments, some Reading Log assignments
HOMEWORK (15%)--homework, some Reading Log assignments, some small group work, selected Reflection Journal responses
PARTICIPATION (5%)--having appropriate materials, positive participation, being on task, following classroom rules
- Completed 9 weeks' averages are as follows:
CLASS AVERAGE (80%)—as determined above
EXAM (20%)--mid-term (1st nine weeks)/end-of-term exam (2nd nine weeks); exams will cover material for each 9 week period. All students will take a mid-term exam and an end-of-term exam.

- Final grade is determined as follows:
FIRST 9 WEEKS (50%)
SECOND NINE WEEKS (50%)
- Research Paper: In order to receive credit for the second nine weeks of freshman English, students *must* complete a research paper. Students who choose not to will receive an incomplete ("I") on their report card for the 9 weeks and the final grade. If the paper is not completed within two weeks after report cards have been sent home, the 9 weeks grade will become an F and the final grade will be averaged accordingly.

DAILY AND LONG TERM HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

- Occasionally daily homework will be assigned that is to be turned in the next day. These assignments will not be accepted late, and the student will receive a zero.
- Students will normally be given long-term (2-4 day) reading assignments that they can complete at their own pace. This includes the novels for outside reading. Other assignments that will be spread out over long periods include creative projects, research, vocabulary development, studying for tests, and longer writing assignments.
- Written projects, thesis, papers, research paper, or any other "major" assignment must be turned in on time to receive full credit. Any major assignment turned in one day late will lose 20 points; any major assignment turned in two days late will lose 10 additional points; after two days, the highest grade a student will receive is a 0.

INTEGRATED HONORS

- At the beginning of the term, students must indicate their interest in being considered for the honors program in English 9. Those students will be given assignments which will require that they demonstrate higher-level thinking skills. Students will be asked to produce work (homework, essays, research paper, etc.) that show more complexity in dealing with a given subject or concept.
Honors students must achieve an 89/B in *all* categories (major, minor, homework, participation) by the first 5-week progress report to be officially classified as honors students. At the end of the first three weeks, students will be notified if their grades have fallen below an 89/B in any category. If, at the first progress report, the student has not achieved an 89/B in all categories, he or she will no longer be considered part of the honors program.
If a student is selected for Honors English 9, he or she must remain in the honors program and complete all assignments according to the curriculum established for Honors English 9. If a student is not selected for the honor program, grades earned will not be removed from the student's record.

PRE-REQUISITES FOR HONORS ENGLISH 10

- maintains an 89/B average
- demonstrates advanced writing skills
- displays consistency in work
- manifests a responsible attitude toward work
- shows appreciation and enthusiasm for the subject
- has consistent attendance record
- is recommended by English 9 instructor

EXTRA CREDIT WORK

- Now and again there will be opportunities for "bonus points" on test or an extra homework grade of 100. However, no extra credit assignments intended to raise averages will be given to any student regardless of that student's grade (whether it be failing or borderline A). Your work is based solely on the work you have accomplished by the end of each 9 weeks.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGLISH CLASS PAPERS

- All homework and essays should be on loose-leaf paper. Five points will be deducted each time you turn in a paper that has been torn out of a notebook.
- All final drafts should be written in blue or black ink or typed.
- Use the unlined corner for your name; instructor's name; English 9, block #; and date.
- Title your work on the top line of your paper.
- The heading on your paper/homework must be correct or five points will be deducted.

ABSENCES AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKE-UP WORK

- Students will be allowed to make up work in the case of excused absences. This class work must be made up within a specific time period agreed upon by the student and teacher.
- Students will not be allowed to make up work in the case of unexcused absences.
- After an absence, students are required to get their assignment from the teacher either at the beginning or end of class. (DO NOT leave class without knowing what is expected of you.)
- In case of an illness, be sure to have your parent/guardian or a classmate turn in your assignment. For an extended absence, have your parent/guardian call the main office to have your assignments e-mailed to you or picked up in the office. This will alleviate being overwhelmed upon your return.
- In the case of a pre-planned, pre-approved trip of ANY kind (i.e. going out of town, sports tournament, field trip, etc.), please see the teacher for instructions regarding classwork.
- If a student is absent the day before a test is to be taken, he or she will be expected to take the test the day they return since all tests are announced about a week in advance. Students absent the day of a test will take the test the day they return.

OTHER PROCEDURES

- During fire drills, exit the building in a calm manner and line up in the designated area of the campus. During intruder drills, remain silent and sit in the designated corner of the room.
- Interruptions are inevitable. Students must continue working or sit patiently.
- Listen to ALL P.A. announcements.

PCHS HONOR CODE

The PCHS Honor Code is based on the premise that PCHS students will not cheat, lie, or steal, nor tolerate those who do. The following statement will be written on all homework, reading logs, quizzes, tests, and papers: "I will abide by the Honor Code." A signature will follow the statement.

The following expectations will apply for English 9:

Homework: All homework must be performed individually unless otherwise authorized. The individual may use only the resources specifically authorized by the teacher.

Original Papers: Thesis papers are to be the original work of the student author without the use of any outside aids.

Research Papers: Research papers are to be the student author's original ideas supported by outside aids as authorized by the teacher. These outside aids must be documented correctly according to MLA standards.

Students should not rely on aid such as Cliff Notes, Monarch Notes, or Barron's Book Notes. Use of these aids or similar aids is expressly forbidden. If this type of aid is used, the student will be referred to the Honor Code Council. **Wikipedia is also strictly forbidden.**

ALL papers will be subject to a plagiarism originality report generated by *Turnitin.com*. Any papers found to be plagiarized will be forwarded to the Honor Code Council for further determination as a violation of the Honor Code.

If at any time you are unsure as to what is expected regarding the Honor Code for a specific assignment, it is your responsibility to ask.

NOTE TO STUDENTS: All rules found in the Parent/Student Handbook will apply in the classroom

ENGLISH 9 SYLLABUS

IN-CLASS READINGS

- Selected fiction (concentrating on identifying the aspects of the story and the motivations of characters, critical thinking skills, and identifying universal themes)
- Selected poetry (concentrating on various poetic forms, figurative language, and critical thinking)
- The Odyssey
- Selected non-fiction
- Romeo and Juliet

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

WRITING PROGRAM

- various long and short writing assignments that correlate to the readings (both academic and creative)
- in-depth research paper

VOCABULARY

- taken from Vocabulary Workshop: Level D
- practiced in weekly exercises

READING LOG

- written responses to supplemental readings

REFLECTION JOURNAL

- daily written reflections on contemporary, literary, and personal topics

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- poetry project
- persuasive speech/debate

SPECIAL SURPRISE PROJECTS (written, oral, artistic)

NOTE TO PARENTS: Should you need to contact me for any reason, feel free to contact me at mpilola@peninsulacatholic.com. Updates will also be periodically posted at pilola.weebly.com
