

English 9 CP/H

2013/2014

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Course Description

This course introduces freshmen to the rigors of high school writing and reading so that every student moves forward equipped with the critical thinking skills and essential academic knowledge necessary for success in college. We will be studying a variety of challenging and enriching academic texts with the focus of the following theme: **The Hero's Journey**. Students will also be writing on a daily basis. Writing assignments will range widely and deeply, including reflective journal entries, creative writing, persuasive essays, explanative writing, timed in-class essays, process pieces and more. Students will also be asked to develop sophisticated group discussion skills (both listening and speaking) during group projects and Socratic discussions.

Required Texts: Everyone in our class will be studying the following texts this semester:

- ❖ Of Mice and Men John Steinbeck
- ❖ Macbeth William Shakespeare
- ❖ The Odyssey Homer
- ❖ To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee
- ❖ Night Elie Weisel
- ❖ Other supplemental novels, essays, poems, articles, films, and short stories

Honors Students will also study:

- ❖ Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte
- ❖ Great Expectations Charles Dickens
- ❖ Other supplemental novels, essays, poems, articles, films, and short stories

Choice Books

- ❖ In addition to reading the required texts mentioned above, all students will read choice books. Guidance in finding an appropriate choice book and making regular reading journal entries will be provided in class.

Required Supplies

Students are required to bring the following materials to every class:

- ❖ A Composition Book (your journal)
- ❖ Pens, pencils, erasers, etc.
- ❖ The current class text
- ❖ College ruled binder paper
- ❖ Your choice book
- ❖ A divider in a three ring binder

Grading Policies

- ❖ **Participation:** *Ten* percent of the student's grade will be assessed based on overall participation. Each day that a student is present, on time, on task, and acts as a respectful member of class, s/he will receive 10 participation points.
- ❖ **Final Exam:** *Ten* percent of the student's grade will be based on the final exam. The final exam may include a combination of the following components: essay writing, short answer responses, vocabulary, grammar, and/or writing techniques.

- ❖ **Essays, Projects, Quizzes, Tests:** *Forty* percent of the student’s grade will be based on writing assignments (essays, etc.), projects, quizzes, and tests. Each of these assignments will range from 10-200 points each.
- ❖ **Journals:** *Forty* percent of the student’s grade will be based on their journals. The journals are a vital part of the student’s learning process in this class. Most in class and homework assignments (including but not limited to questions, brainstorming, pre-writing, vocabulary, grammar exercises, notes, “Do-Nows,” etc.) will be done in journals.

Class Expectations: All school rules apply in LA 311

- ❖ **General Behavior:** *Be Respectful* to the school, classroom, your peers, your teachers, and yourself.
 - ❖ Students are expected to come to class on time every day, to bring all their materials and be ready to work, to complete assignments to the best of their abilities, and to participate in class discussions.
 - ❖ All members of the classroom will listen quietly and respectfully while the teacher or other students are talking.
 - ❖ All members of the class are expected to respect differing opinions and to speak their own minds.
- ❖ **Attendance and Punctuality:** Attendance is mandatory. Students must be in their seats when the bell rings in order to be considered “on-time.” Students have three days to make up late work if they have an excused absence. Students who know about an upcoming absence need to see the teacher ahead of time to receive work. In extenuating circumstances (prolonged illness, family emergency, etc.) students should confer with the teacher in order to put together an alternative plan.
- ❖ **Late Work:** Work that is not turned in on time for reasons other than excused absence will receive 50% credit.

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Agreement: Please sign below, and return to the teacher by _____.

We have read and discussed the syllabus for Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Fowler’s class. We understand the grading system, class expectations, and policies.

Student: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Mrs. Evans: _____

Ms. Fowler: _____