

Bloomington High School North English 9 Honors Syllabus

Fall/Winter of 2015

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Classroom 709

Course Description & Introduction: Welcome to English 9 Honors. Throughout this semester, we will explore the world of literature through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Reading materials include, but are not limited to, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Antigone*. We will become comfortable with reading, thinking, speaking, and writing in a critical and analytical manner.

In this class, students should be prepared to read a generous amount, write intelligent essays, and complete meaningful assignments. Remember that we are here to explore the world of literature in a way that is engaging to all of us, so please also be prepared to thoughtfully contribute to class discussions. Ideas are very, very valuable in this class. Therefore, everyone will have ample opportunity, from class discussion to essays and journal entries, to share their ideas.

Course Policies: Remember that we are here to discuss literature. Here are a few guidelines that will guarantee your success in English 9 Honors:

- Come to class regularly and be on time. Excessive tardiness will not only affect your final grade, it will result in detention and missed pop quizzes at the beginning of class.
- Be prepared. This means, do your homework, write your papers, and read assigned materials.
- Put your phone and/or other electronic devices away during lecture and discussion time.
- Participate and contribute in class discussions. I cannot emphasize how significant this will be to your improvement.
- Care about what you do in this class.
- Be respectful of everyone, especially during discussion time when others may be sharing differing ideas and perspectives. Have empathy, be thoughtful, and practice consideration.

*Food and drinks are allowed, so long as you clean up after yourselves.

Supplies:

- Journal to keep in class
- Pens/pencils
- Folder or small binder
- Loose leaf paper
- Box of tissues

Evaluation and Grading:

Work Products (80%): This will involve mostly written work, including essays, journal writing, tests, and quizzes. We will also have occasional oral presentations or multimedia projects.

Classroom Discourse (10%): This is more than the typical “class participation” grade that is determined simply by how many times you open your mouth during large-group discussion. Contributing to classroom discourse also involves being an active, respectful, and *informed* participant in small-group work, team projects, and other class time activities.

Habits of Learning (10%): This is what might be called the “effort and commitment” category, and it includes all the “little things” that make learning possible—attending class (and arriving on time), having all necessary materials, and otherwise being prepared to give your best effort.

Students receive term grades each six weeks. The only grades that appear on transcripts, however, are semester grades which consist of the cumulative points.

Letter scores are as follows:

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F= 59% and below

Re-takes: Generally, make-up exams for poor grades are not offered. It would be wise to study and be prepared for exams and quizzes.

Extra credit is occasionally available. Participating in the “Rosie Reader” program offered by the North library is one way students can receive extra credit. Students who participate in the program may earn five points per title read. Other opportunities for extra credit *may* arise throughout the year. Please let me know if you have ideas for extra credit, and I will happily consider them.

Late Work Policy:

Late homework will not be accepted, except following excused absences and in extreme extenuating circumstances. Major projects (essays, research papers, etc.) will receive a full grade reduction (e.g., B+ to a C+) for every school day they are late. In addition, since late papers cause problems with paper-grading schedules, they may receive minimal written feedback.

Academic Honesty:

The difference between learning from others and letting them do your work for you is absolutely crucial in this class, and we will react very strongly against all forms of cheating and plagiarism, including but not limited to automatic failure on the assignment. If you are unsure what counts as “prohibited sharing,” please review the Student Handbook or ask us beforehand.

Use the following links for more information on academic dishonesty:

<http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/responsibilities/academic/index.shtml>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.pdf>

Discipline Procedure:

If students violate a school-wide expectation or classroom expectation, they will be given a warning. After the 2nd warning, students will be referred to the office for disciplinary action. This includes the following:

*Any behavior that is disruptive to the learning environment (i.e. inappropriate conversation, inappropriate physical conduct, inappropriate use of technology, etc.)