

English 9 Core 40

Syllabus
2015-2016
Mr. Howard
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Room # 610

Welcome to English 9:

This class is designed to help you achieve the goals I discussed with you on day one. I seek to give you the reading, thinking, and writing skills to pass all necessary tests and obtain the necessary grades to graduate. These skills will also help you in all school subjects from now until you leave formal education! We all know that better grades equals more future opportunities. However, there are present benefits as well: teachers and parents happy with you, more independence, and many other perks we have discussed.

Course Description / Purpose:

We will be reading a number of fiction and non-fiction texts in this class. You will be writing, taking quizzes, completing group activities, and performing other tasks to demonstrate your understanding and your growing ability to think like an adult. Our most important goal is to start learning about how the world works. What kind of people are survivors? What kind of people succeed? How do people build meaningful relationships? What things give people true, lasting happiness?

You have probably met a large mix of people in your life-- some happy and fulfilled while others are not. Which kind of person do you want to be? The answers to the questions above (and many more we will explore) are essential to getting the kind of life you want.

Materials:

I will not (unless you are a student in MORE THAN ONE of my classes), be actively regulating your system of organization.

There are three things you must bring every day:

A spiral notebook for this class only
A pen or pencil
Your laptop – charged and ready to go.

All of your readings and assignments will be on Canvas, a website that can be found at mccsc.instructure.com. You will log in, click courses, select English, and have all of the readings and assignments for the semester laid out for you. If you do not bring your device, you will be unable to keep up with the class. Every taxpayer in the county has contributed a portion of his or her wages so that you can use this device in school rather than schlep six textbooks around the school. Respect our sacrifice by being ready to use it.

If you do not have the internet at home, you can download readings and assignments to your computer at school so you may view them without the internet. This is your responsibility.

First Semester Units & Readings:

All available on mccsc.instructure.com

Grading:

Your grade is determined by dividing the total number of points you earn by the maximum number of points you *could* have earned. There are typically around 200 points in a 6-week marking period.

Ex: Sally earns 160 points during the six weeks. $160/200 = 80\%$ B-

You will have three six-week grading periods and a final exam during a semester. Your semester grade (The only one that counts for college and appears on your official transcript) will be a combination of these grades.

Marking Period 1 (30% of final grade)

Marking Period 2 (30% of final grade)

Marking Period 3 (30% of final grade)

Final Exam (10% of final grade)

Grade	Grade Marks	
	High	Low
A+	100.00	97.50
A	97.49	93.50
A-	93.49	89.50
B+	89.49	87.50
B	87.49	83.50
B-	83.49	79.50
C+	79.49	77.50
C	77.49	73.50
C-	73.49	69.50
D+	69.49	67.50
D	67.49	63.50
D-	63.49	59.50
F	59.49	0.00

Points are usually allocated in the following way:

Daily work, reading tasks, participation: 50% of points

Tests and quizzes: 30% of points

Papers and Projects (likely 3 total per semester): 20% of points

Grades will be maintained on Skyward Family Access.

Late Work:

Late work will receive an immediate deduction of 15%. An additional 5% will be deducted for each week it is late. Multiple late assignments will result in a call home. You caregiver and I will discuss a further penalties and an ongoing plan to correct the habit.

Absences:

Your parent/guardian must call the attendance office within 24 hours of your absence: 330-7717.

The calendar on our Canvas site will explain what needs to be done for the day. You have up to a week after returning to school to resolve any missed assignments or readings.