

Ninth Grade English - Course Overview
Alexis I. DuPont High School: 2009-2010 School Year
Mrs. Holloway & Dr. Grider (302.651.2626)

ENGLISH CONTENT STANDARDS:

This course is aligned with (1) the Delaware public schools English Language Arts Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations and (2) the Red Clay Consolidated School District English Language Arts Curriculum Alignment Map. A major underpinning of the course is differentiated instruction; therefore, the course is regularly adjusted and adapted to meet the instructional needs of each student. In the words of Aristotle, “What we have to learn to do we learn by doing.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will help students to enhance grammar, reading and writing skills. Students will focus on various elements of short stories, novels, and poetry, and will practice analytical and writing skills by using selection content and developing concepts discussed.

COURSE GOALS:

By the end of the year, students will have:

1. Read short stories, varied poetry, novels, and plays.
2. Discussed and applied concepts and themes from the literature to the world around them.
3. Demonstrated analytical ability in their writing and class discussion.
4. Demonstrated competency in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
5. Improved the organization and development of their writing.
6. Used research to develop a thesis.
7. Gained a better understanding of mood, setting, characterization, and plot in short stories.
8. Gained a better understanding of narrative dramatic, and lyric poetry.
9. Been exposed to various poetic and literary terms.

CLASS CONTENT/CORE READING:

The following is a general outline of the content we will cover throughout the year:

Short Stories: Plot, character, theme, mood, setting, point of view

Play: *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare’s life and times, elements of tragedy, theme

Poetry: Lyric, Narrative, and Dramatic poetry, figurative language, and other devices

Novel: *The Odyssey* – major focus on analysis of theme and character; another novel to be announced later in the year

Writing/Projects: 5 paragraph essay, creative writing, multi-media projects, short opinion and analytical essays, research based paper

The reading in this class may include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following texts (or excerpts):

Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare)

The Odyssey (Homer)

The Old Man and the Sea (Hemingway)

Various other selections from assigned textbook

TEXTBOOK:

Elements of Literature. Third Course. Holt, Reinhart and Winston: 2007.

ESCHOOLPLUS ONLINE GRADEBOOK, ASSIGNMENT POINT STRUCTURE and MAKE-UP WORK:

Eschoolplus is a grade management system used by our district. Teachers, students, and parents/guardians have access to the web site, which reports each student's assignments, respective grades, and overall average. Every student will be given a password to access his/her grades; the student's parents/guardians will receive information in the mail about the grade book which will include the passwords necessary to access the system.

Because of the ease and efficiency of the gradebook program, each student is responsible for monitoring his/her own work and grades (that is not to say that they will not be discussed in class). In addition, each student is responsible for obtaining his/her own make-up work for absences. Students can refer to the weekly preview to determine what work was missed on their day(s) of absence, or may either e-mail us or see us before or after class to get assigned work.

The student is expected to take the initiative and make an appointment at the teacher's convenience to make up work missed because of an excused absence. School policy states that this must be done within as many days as the student was absent. A standing assignment is to be turned in upon the student's return to school.

If a student is absent for part of the day, he/she is to see the teacher of the class missed, turn in assigned work, and take any assignments given that day. If not, the student will receive a zero for work missed and homework due and a late penalty for any major assignment due that day. No credit will be given for work missed during an unexcused absence.

If you miss a test due to an excused absence, it is your responsibility to see me to arrange a time to make it up. If not, your test grade will be penalized one letter grade for each day you do not make up the test. Any quiz not made up within the required time will become a zero.

If a student plans on missing school for vacation or a college visitation, s/he must give the teacher one week advance notice in order to receive school assignments that the student will miss while away.

Students are expected to report to class on time with the necessary materials. If you arrive to class after the bell, without a pass, you are to report to the Late Center.

Each assignment and assessment is worth a designated number of points. At the end of the marking period, the points are added and divided by total points possible to obtain a percentile average. The point structure and predicted frequency of assignments is as follows:

| | |
|--------|---|
| 50-100 | graded writing piece/essay (1-2 per marking period) |
| 20 | peer editing (of writing) (2-3 per marking period) |
| 20-30 | quizzes (3-5 per marking period) |
| 20 | homework and classwork (6 randomly selected assignments per marking period) |
| 50-100 | each project and/or test (2-3 per marking period) |
| 25-50 | oral presentation or scored discussion (1 per marking period) |
| 300 | research paper writing process (3 rd marking period) |
| 300 | final research paper (4 th marking period) |

GRADING:

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| A | 100 – 93% | D | 76 – 70% |
| B | 92 – 85% | F | 69 – 0% |
| C | 84 – 77% | | |

The final grade for the year is determined by adding the four marking periods, the mid-term, and the final exam. A .75 is necessary for passing the year. If a student receives an "F" in three of the five elements, a failure for the year will result.

WORK PRESENTATION:

All submitted assignments must follow the MLA style headings: name, teacher, class & period, date (6 May 2007) in top left-hand corner of sheet and must be typed.

Name

Teacher

Class + Period

Date (day-month-year)

NOTEBOOKS:

Each student is expected to have a notebook/binder dedicated to this class. The notebook should have 3 sections: WARM-UPS (daily activity at the beginning of class); NOTES (taken when reading, listening, observing); and ASSIGNMENTS (in-class work and homework included).

JOURNALS:

Each student must bring a journal (composition notebook) to class during the first week of school. The journals will remain in the classroom and may be read by the teacher at any time. Prompts will be provided periodically to encourage diversity in writing topics and the journal is intended to trace the development of the particular writer.

EXTRA CREDIT/ANCHOR ACTIVITIES:

Each student will have a folder to be kept in the room for anchor activities. During each "long period," and any other time that a student may have completed assigned work and have extra time, he/she may have the option to earn extra points. At the close of the marking period, the folders will be evaluated and extra points will be added to the marking period point total. Activities and point values will be discussed in class.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Following the RCCSD policy, our school does not permit electronic devices to be visible or in use in the classroom or hallways. Students must turn them off and put them out of sight (in pocket or bag) during the school day. If students don't adhere to this, then the teacher will ask for the device and send it to the main office from which the parent or guardian will need to retrieve it. If a student refuses to relinquish his/her device, then the teacher will call an administrator to collect the phone.

EXPECTATIONS:

The Red Clay Consolidated School District Behavior Standards are posted in the classroom. Each student is responsible for his/her conduct in class in accordance to these standards.

- 1 A single violation of any of these standards will result in a verbal warning.
- 2 A second violation of any of these standards will result in a phone call to parent/guardian.
- 3 A third violation of any of these standards will result in a behavioral referral.

Major behavioral infractions (as listed in the student code of conduct) will be immediately referred to an administrator.

In addition to the district behavioral standards, in this classroom each student is expected

to:

- 1 Earn his/her points (you can have them all if you want them).**
- 2 Bring necessary materials (pen, pencil, texts, notebook) to every class.**
- 3 Ask questions and offer thoughts.**
- 4 Become a better reader, writer, and thinker.**
- 5 Be a respectful and responsible individual.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY / PLAGIARISM:

Academic dishonesty- helping another to cheat or plagiarism- is a serious violation of the academic code of conduct. A student found guilty of such actions will (1) have the actions reported to his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) by the teacher, (2) receive a failing grade for the assessment in question, (3) be required to redo the assignment, (4) be reported to the national Honor Society for a violation of academic dishonesty, and (5) be required to attend a conference with his/her parents and an administrator to discuss the violation.