

English 9
Spring 2013

Mr. Shea
Room I-1
San Ramon Valley High School
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Course Description:

English 9 is an introductory course that lays a foundation of skills that students will need throughout high school. It is a literature-based course with an emphasis on critical reading and composition skills. These skills include: literary analysis and close reading, writing expository essays, creative writing, timed writing, grammar and usage, vocabulary, discussion group skills, and dramatic interpretation. Students are exposed to a variety of classical and contemporary genres: novels, short stories, plays, poetry and non-fiction.

Curriculum:

All curriculum is based on the California Content Standards for English/Language Arts using literature as a basis for learning.

Literature: (Novels are subject to change)

- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *To Kill a Mocking Bird*
- *A Separate Peace*
- *House on Mango Street*
- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Articles
- Outside Reading Book

Outside Reading Book:

Each quarter students will be asked to pick an outside reading book of their choice. Time will be set aside every Friday for silent sustained reading from this book of the students choosing.

Writing and Essays:

We will be practicing and developing a variety of writing styles and purposes such as journaling, free writing, creative writing, expository essay, analytical paragraph, summary and reflective writing.

Grammar and Vocabulary:

Both grammar and vocabulary will be taught alongside literary units and incorporated in student writing.

Homework and Assignments:

Due dates will be posted on the board in the designated class section and on school-loop. Students are expected to complete home work prior to class. All assignments must be either typed or written clearly. Assignments sent via email, to be printed out, will NOT be accepted. In accordance with English Department Policy, late work will receive 50% off the designated grade.

Expectations:

- Be on time, prepared and in your designated seat when the bell rings.
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on before talking.
- Listen attentively to both directions and others.
- Respect the classroom, others and yourself.
- Stay in your designated seat unless otherwise instructed.
- No Candy, Drinks (with the exception of water), Food or Gum is allowed.
- Electronics must be used appropriately and wisely.

Absences:

It is the students responsibility to contact the teacher and retrieve any absent work before or after school. All absent work, tests or quizzes must be submitted or taken within three days, after which the grade becomes a zero.

Grading:

Grades are cumulative and based on a point system. Tests, essays and projects will allocated the highest point value. Work will be evaluated on its level of completion, meeting the deadlines, presentation, coinciding with directions as well as depth of ideas, thought and accuracy of mechanics. Cooperative, respectful and thoughtful participation will also positively affect students grade. In accordance with English Department Policy there is NO extra credit!

Grades are calculated as follows:

A = 100-90%

B = 89-80%

C = 79-70%

D = 69-60%

F = 59% or below

Academic Dishonesty:

In accordance with school policy any student caught cheating, plagiarizing or producing any material that is not original and unique to them will receive a zero on his or her assignment as well a referred to administration and parental contact will follow.

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am looking forward to a terrific, thought provoking and fun Spring as well as am thrilled to be joining the teaching staff here at San Ramon Valley High School. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or issues throughout the semester; I am always willing to schedule a meeting, during my prep period or after school.

Go Wolves!
Mr. Nicholas Shea

Please sign below to indicate that you have read, understand and are willing to comply to with my policies.

Student

Parent/Guardian

Date