

Instructor: Ms. Sizemore

Course: English 9

Room: 214

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Welcome to English 9 and welcome to Columbia High School! We are going to have a great year and I hope you are as excited as I am to start on our journey.

Course Description:

This course is designed to develop student competency in English usage and mechanics, oral and written communication, and reading comprehension. Readings over the course of the year will include novels, short stories, poems, plays, non-fiction texts, essays, speeches, and songs. Students will engage in various critical thinking activities including debates, presentations, and writing. This course integrates listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills. Rudimentary research skills will be introduced and word processing skills taught. **This course fulfills the requirement for one unit of 9th grade English for the high school diploma.**

This course will be divided into four major units taking place over the course of four nine-week periods. Below you will find the anchor texts that will primarily guide our unit. Woven throughout each unit will be supplemental readings that enhance our reading, writing, and class discussion.

Unit 1: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Unit 2: *The Odyssey* by Homer

Unit 3: *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Unit 4: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Our Rules – Practicing Professionalism

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Be seated when the bell rings.
3. Bring materials to school every day (Computer charged, pencil, paper).
4. Don't talk out of turn- raise your hand.
5. Respect our class.

Our rules are designed to create a classroom where learning is our top priority and where we all feel comfortable expressing our thoughts and ideas. If you make the choice to break one of these rules, you are making the choice to receive the following consequences.

Our Consequences

1. Verbal Warning Signature in Log
2. Conference with Student
3. Phone call home
4. Parent-Teacher Conference
5. Administration Referral

***In the case of severe behavior, students will be given an immediate referral.**

What should you bring to class each day?

1. Fully charged laptop
2. Pens/Pencils
3. Loose-Leaf paper/binder

Grading Policy **IBP Grade Conversion**

A= 90+	7-8
B= 80-89.9	5-6
C= 70-79.9	3-4

D= 60-69.9 1-2
F= 0-59.9 0

Grades will be figured by percentages. You will have two categories for your grades in iNow: formative and summative. Formative grades are worth forty percent of your overall grade and they are made up of daily grades and homework. Summative grades are worth sixty percent of your overall grade and are made up of major grades like tests, essays, and projects. The IBP 8-point scale will be used for summative assessments.

Procedures:

Entering Class

You should always arrive to class on time and prepared. If you are late to class, you are expected to sign the Tardy Log Book located by the door. Your next step will be to place your homework in the bin and report to your assigned seat. You should immediately begin working on your Bellringer silently and independently. You will have a Bellringer **every single day** related to something we did in class earlier in the week or something we will be working on that day.

Late Work/Missing Assignments

All homework is due in your assigned class folder at the start of class unless otherwise stated. All homework not in the bin is considered late and will not receive full credit.

All late assignments will be given an automatic 10% grade reduction. For each class day it is late, the grade will be given another 10% reduction up to 3 days. After 3 days, the assignment is an automatic zero.

Make-Up Assignments

If you are absent, it is *your* responsibility to come to me about make-up work. There will be a location in the classroom where assignments will be placed for the day of the week we worked on it. That means if you were absent on Tuesday, it is your job to check the assignments in the Tuesday folder when you return on Wednesday and turn in your homework from Monday night. It will be recorded as a 0 in the gradebook if this does not happen during the week of your absence.

Make sure you check with me and your classmates for any work you missed in addition to checking the folder with assignments (some work may have been done on the computer or may have taken notes). You will have 3 days to make up work after the day of your absence. Any work given after 3 days will follow the Late Work Policy.

If you are absent on the day of a major due date, you must have an excused absence in order to receive full credit. If you know you are going to be absent beforehand, e-mail me your assignment **before** the due date.

Bathroom Pass

Each student schoolwide will be given exactly 5 bathroom passes to use. If you need to use one, raise your hand and ask. I will initial one of the five passes, which gives you permission to take the pass by the door. When you leave, you must enter your use of the pass into the log book, noting your destination, time left, and time returned. If I notice that you abuse this pass (example: being absent from class longer than 5 minutes), I will limit your pass use to one per nine weeks. I will only have the one main pass, so if the pass is in use, wait until it is returned.

Exiting Class

The bells do not dismiss you from class, I do. That means you are not packing up your materials 4 minutes before the bell rings. You will continue to work with urgency until I dismiss you from class. I will hold the class late if necessary.

Cellphone Policy

Please see official Columbia High School policy regarding cellphone usage. When you enter our classroom, you will put your cellphone into our phone coral. You will have an assigned number for you phone and will retrieve your phone at the end of class. This is a precautionary measure to keep you from using your cellphone during our class time.

Bonus Points

Throughout the semester, I will be offering a few ways to earn bonus points. One way is cellphone bonus, which will be given randomly to those who turn in their cellphone to cellphone day care at the beginning of class. Another way to earn bonus will be to read a teacher-approved book outside the assigned curriculum and respond to a prompt which I provide.

This syllabus will serve us throughout the entire school year. However, changes or alterations might become necessary as the year goes on. If this is the case, I will let you know immediately if any changes take place.

By signing below, I am acknowledging that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the above syllabus.

Student's printed name: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian's name: _____ Relationship to student: _____

Guardian's Phone: _____ Guardian's Email: _____

Preferred method of contact (circle one): Phone / Email

Guardian's signature: _____ Date: _____