

English 9 Honors

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Web Page: www.teachfreespeech.com, our Canvas site and Google Classroom site
Room: 110
Periods: 2, 5 & 6

OVERVIEW

English 9 Honors is an advanced introduction to the modes of writing and literary analysis expected of high school students. English 9 Honors requires intellectual focus and rigorous work both inside and outside of the classroom that demonstrates a strong desire to extend the study of the English language, literature and composition. Work will include interaction with the required honors texts, challenging classroom assignments and appropriately demanding individual projects.

Literature studied includes William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," Sophocles' "Antigone," as well as a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections from around the world. Students also will choose at least three works from the College Board's list of "101 Books for College-Bound Students" (and/or other approved texts) to read independently outside of class.

Media – particularly the ability to thoughtfully respond to film – is also emphasized. Writing and responding to literature and film is a critical component of this class. Students will compose convincing essays, narratives, editorial columns, letters and stories by the end of the year. Several honors-level writing projects are required, and at least one essay must demonstrate a close reading and analysis of a nonfiction text. An emphasis on developing correct grammar, spelling, paragraphing and transitioning will be made through in-class work, student-teacher conferences, and the revision of work. Throughout the year, each student will maintain a portfolio of his or her work, and will be expected to thoughtfully reflect on the work periodically.

Learning will be assessed in a variety of methods, including comparisons to scoring rubrics and models, demonstrations of ability to apply knowledge, presentations, teacher observations/evaluations, conversations, Socratic Seminars, peer feedback, reflective self-evaluations and journals. So, come prepared for a class that challenges you to push the limits of your reading, writing and presentation skills while preparing you to take ownership of your own learning.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

- Through reading and writing, we make sense of the world around us.
- You don't know what you think until you write it down.
- Through writing, we can invite readers to see the world as we see it.
- All writing is a draft. Writing is a process and a journey. Words have power.
- Good grammar is good manners. Readers deserve our respect.

REQUIREMENTS

To successfully complete this course and earn credit, you must:

- Complete each graded activity in a timely manner and earn at least a "D" on each graded assignment
- Complete assigned independent reading assignments in a timely manner
- Attend class, avoid tardiness and actively participate
- Participate fully in class activities and maintain a professional learning and working environment
- Maintain a section of your folder for all notes, handouts and assignments

GRADING POLICY

Grades reflect your competency and should encourage your growth and accountability throughout the learning process.

- All late work will automatically be reduced one grade
- All returned assignments should be kept as proof of grades earned.
- Passing grades range from "A" to "D." If you do not meet minimal standard, you will receive an "F" or an "I".
- An "I" grade may be changed to a letter grade by completing any unfinished work or by redoing any unsatisfactory work. However, "I" grades are rarely granted. A semester "F" grade may be changed by retaking the course.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is critical to your success in any class, but especially an Honors class. Please do all you can to attend regularly and arrive on time and ready to learn and contribute. Please read the official MTHS Attendance and Tardy policies in your student handbook.

TECHNOLOGY

We are so grateful to our community for supporting students in our Chromebook 1:1 program as well as all the other technology that we have access to here at MTHS. Additionally, many students have their own personal technology – iPhones, laptops, etc. – that can greatly enhance learning. Therefore, students are expected to use mature, sound judgment when accessing technology in the classroom. I contend that instead of establishing strict punitive policies discouraging technology, I believe this class is a great place to learn that there is an appropriate time to fully take advantage of these tools. Initially, gentle reminders will be given to students who use technology in a manner detrimental to our learning environment, but subsequent offenses will be addressed more seriously.

PLAGIARISM

To plagiarize is to use the language, ideas and/or thoughts of someone else and represent them as your own. Obviously, this is highly unethical and among the most grievous academic offenses. Please read the official MTHS policy in your student handbook. It is highly recommended that you seek clarification from me if you have any questions about this issue. **Plagiarism will result in an "F" for the assignment and other possible academic penalties. Subsequent plagiarism may result in removal from the class and an automatic "F" for the semester.**