

Honors 9th Grade English Syllabus 2020-2021

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Room: A49

Course Description

In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of literary and informational texts. These texts will act as a catalyst for developing critical thinking skills, a deeper understanding of literary conventions, and a refined sense of rhetoric. Students can expect a heavy emphasis on analysis and composition. The ultimate objective of each reading and writing assignment will be to develop students who are complex thinkers and effective communicators.

Casteel High School is dedicated to incorporating the AZCCRS into the curriculum and increasing the rigor of our instruction. You may visit the Arizona Department of Education website at <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/> to view the standards.

Class Schedule and Office Hours

Students will login and virtually attend classes during the scheduled class times. Students should anticipate the following structure for my class:

1. ~30 minutes of “asynchronous” instruction, where the students can consume my recorded lesson at their own pace.
2. ~1 Hour of “synchronous” instruction, where the teacher and the students are online together.
3. ~30 minutes of student work time, where the students are expected to work on assignments for my class.

Class Period	Time	Synchronous Instruction Time
1/2	7:35-9:32	~8:05-9:05
3/4	Class from 9:37-11:52 Lunch from 11:52-12:22 *Please note that when virtual, this lunch schedule will not apply	~10:07-11:07
5/6	12:27-2:25	~12:57-1:57

Office Hours:

- I will be available to both students and parents at the following times to discuss via phone and to answer emails:
 - **Odd block days:** 7:00am-7:30am
 - **Even block days:** 2:25pm-2:55pm

*You're welcome to call or email me at any time, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. The above times are merely times I have dedicated to being able to talk live.

*Whenever possible, please notify me in advance if you would like to conference with me.

Google Classroom

This year, Google Classroom will be the primary platform for delivering curriculum in all classes. Students must use their district provided Google accounts to access this. With this account, students will have a designated email, a Google Drive for storing documents, and access to Google apps such as Docs, Slides, and Sheets. Google Classroom will be used to post lessons, lectures, assignments and questions, host discussions, share the class calendar, post reminders for the students, and many other features. Students will be expected to submit classwork and receive feedback from the classroom teacher using Google Classroom.

-Google Classroom and the other Google apps can be used on most smart devices, including smart phones. **If a student does not have access to a personal device for Google Classroom, please notify me immediately.** A limited number of

computers will be provided for in-class use. Students will be encouraged to utilize personal devices both during class and outside of class.

-Official grades **will not** be delivered via Google Classroom. Infinite Campus will be utilized for posting grades.

-Please email me with questions or concerns you may have with the use of Google Classroom.

Students, please review my expectations for your conduct when using Google Classroom:

1. I will use posts to discuss school-related content only.
2. I will use a respectful tone of voice when posting. All school rules and consequences related to harassment and bullying apply at all times.
3. I will use appropriate grammar to the best of my ability, and I will avoid the informal language of texting, social media apps, etc.
4. I will not use my posts to promote personal social media accounts, websites, or chat rooms.
5. Other than my name, I will not reveal any personal information on Google Classroom. This includes telephone numbers, addresses, emails, etc.
6. I will not post photos or videos showing myself or classmates. This does NOT include enabling video during live discussions. Students are welcome to enable video during live discussions if they choose to.
7. I will not record or screenshot any image of another student or myself or my teacher on Google Classroom.

Students and families, I understand that predicting inappropriate behavior in all of its forms is impossible, and that the best way to handle inappropriate behavior is to communicate with me so that this behavior can be managed appropriately.

In addition to access to Google Classroom, please review the additional supplies below:

Supply List

Pencils	College-ruled composition notebook (designated for my class)
Highlighters (3 different colors: pink, yellow, green/blue)	Blue, black, and red pens for corrections

Class Literature

The following four texts will be read as a class this year. This list is tentative.

These texts will act as “anchor” texts, and will be paired with supplemental texts that are thematically connected.

Quarter 1	<i>The Odyssey</i> by Homer
Quarter 2	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare
Quarter 3	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee
Quarter 4	<i>Night</i> by Elie Wiesel

Our class textbook is titled *myPerspectives*, and will contain the majority of the texts read in class.

Homework

- **Assignments will be delivered via Google Classroom.** In addition, many assignments will be submitted to turnitin.com **AND** printed for in-class discussions/evaluation.
- When a novel study is in progress, students can expect nightly preparation in order to effectively prepare for class discussions and to think critically.

Grading Scale

Missing work will be noted using an “M” in Infinite Campus and recorded as zero points.

These can be submitted late for credit.

Quarter Grade: Formative assignments will account for 40% of a student’s quarter grade, while summative assignments will account for 60%.

40% “Formative” Assignments	60% “Summative” Assignments
Examples: -homework -smaller writing tasks, such as vocabulary sentences -daily short response, discussion board posts, and similar, frequent assignments	Examples: -tests, such as a test on a studied novel -larger writing projects, such as a formal essay -formal presentations, such as a book review -formal discussions, such as a socratic seminar

Semester Grade: 80% is determined by the average of Quarter Grades, 20% is determined by the final exam.

Website and Absent Work

Each day’s lesson, with PDF attachments of any hand-outs, links to any supplemental materials, and documents of any resources, will be posted on Google Classroom each day. If you are absent and/or misplaced a hand-out, it is your responsibility to go online and review that day’s lesson and assignments. Please come to class, following an absence, with all missed work reviewed. Please use Infinite Campus to identify missing assignments.

Late Work

- Late work will be accepted per the *CCHS Grading Policy*, and deducted 10% from the grade earned for each day late.
- Assignments are due the following class period, unless a later due date is stated.
- **No** assignments will be assigned and then due at the end of the class period when lessons are delivered virtually.

Cheating and Plagiarism

- Students who have copied the work of another student will receive a **zero** on that assignment. The student from whom the work was copied will receive equal consequences.
- Plagiarism is defined in the student handbook as “copying the work of another person and submitting it as your own, obtaining unauthorized or undocumented material from the Internet or other sources, or securing teacher materials or work in a dishonest way are all considered cheating”. This will be taken very seriously; please refer to the handbook for specific consequences.

Attendance and Tardy Policy

- Attendance is an integral part of being successful in this class. Students must make it a priority to attend class, whether it is virtual or in-person. Please review the make-up work policy above.
- When virtual, student attendance will be determined based on participation. For example, if a student is not present in the virtual classroom for their scheduled class, and they do not accomplish the daily assignment by the next scheduled class, then that student will be marked absent for that class.
- Please email me when a situation regarding attendance does not align with the above expectation, and I will work with you to determine a solution.

Media

- Throughout the year, we will watch video clips and/or listen to media that support our novel studies and curriculum. This will also help to fulfill our standard:
(9-10.RL.7): Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment.
- Some media may be rated NR, G, PG, or PG-13, yet all are connected to our required reading and educationally based. Please **email** me with any questions or concerns.
- Further supplemental materials from sources such as Khan Academy, commonlit.org, and screened Youtube videos will also be used regularly.

Parent and Student Signatures

Please sign below, indicating that you have read and understand the information presented in this syllabus.

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature
