

## **Syllabus: English 9B**

Welcome to your second high school English class! Keep this syllabus handy, as it contains information you will need throughout this newly redesigned, challenging course.

### **Schedule:**

#### ***Weeks 1-3: Non-fiction/media literacy unit***

Reading: Various newspaper articles, non-fiction pieces, and videos  
Grammar: Identifying subject/predicate  
Major assignments: Media Literacy Project (creating website/blog)  
Charts on cultural relevance and argument evaluation  
Vocabulary quiz on media literacy terms  
Subject/predicate quiz

#### ***Week 4: Comparative Viewpoints***

Reading: Various pieces regarding the death of Edgar Allan Poe  
Opposing Viewpoints articles  
Major assignments: T-chart comparing opposing viewpoints  
Vocabulary quiz on logical appeal, etc.

#### ***Weeks 5-12: To Kill a Mockingbird Unit***

Literature: Scottsboro Documentary  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
Various non-fiction pieces  
Grammar: Complex sentences, including comma after dependent clause at beginning  
Using a comma after introductory words, phrases, clauses  
Defining and Identifying misplaced and dangling modifiers  
Major assignments: Unit project: student chooses various assessments totaling 50 points.  
Major paper using TKAM, non-fiction pieces, and personal experience to explore theme.  
Two reading application quizzes  
Vocabulary quiz  
Grammar quizzes

### **Grading:**

Grades can be checked by parents and students via the Infinite Campus website. See the student handbook (available on the high school web page) for details. All assignments have been broken down into five categories, weighted as follows:

Formal essays/major assignments	40%
Assessments (grammar, literary tests)	25%
Informal writing/classwork/homework/participation	35%

These assignments comprise the 12-week grade, which is worth 80 percent of the total semester grade. The other 20 percent of the total grade comes from the final exam. All formal essays will consistently be worth 50 points.

**Work that has been plagiarized or obtained by cheating** will receive a zero. To be clear, plagiarism is stealing another writer's ideas and words. To even avoid the appearance of plagiarism, always use your own words and generously credit sources. Only information that is widely available from a variety of sources—such as historic facts and geographic data—can be used without giving credit.

## Late work

In class-assignments or homework that is discussed in class--no late work or makeups allowed.

Assignments: All late assignments are accepted up to a certain point depending on when they are assigned. For the first half of the trimester, late work will be accepted until midterm grades are posted. For things due after that, late work will be due before final exams. However, 10 percent will be taken off the earned grade per day, down to a maximum of 40 percent off (or 60 percent of the grade earned).

Essays: 10 percent off the earned grade per day, down to a maximum 40 percent off (or 60 percent of the grade earned). Essays are accepted until before final exams.

## Retake Policy

Teachers will allow students to retake a different version of grammar or vocabulary tests only (not literature tests) to show competency after the student has worked outside of the school, during PlusTime, or with the instructor before or after school. The highest grade will be recorded

**Make-up work** is your responsibility to obtain and complete. Check with a classmate to find out what the class learned in your absence and what assignments need to be done. As per school policy, you have two days to make up work after an absence. If a test or quiz is missed, the student may set a time with the teacher before or after school to complete it.

## Classroom Guidelines:

1. Arrive to class on time. I will strictly enforce the school's tardy policy. You must be in your seat and working on the warm-up assignment, or else you will be considered tardy. You should plan to use the restroom before class.
2. Arrive to class prepared to work. Bring the required books, paper, writing tools, and completed work. Follow written instructions carefully.
3. No food is allowed in the classroom. Water is encouraged (the brain functions better when it is hydrated, and water helps prevent fatigue), and other drinks will be allowed until bottles are left and the privilege is abused.
4. This class will involve some discussion of issues or works of literature. You may not necessarily agree with the opinions of others, but you must respect them and the individual's right to express them. Do not talk when someone else is talking, including me.
5. The expectation is that you use the chromebooks as an educational tool; I will follow the school's progressive discipline when they are misused, and it is assumed you know the school's rules and the law.
6. **CELL PHONES (per PHS handbook)**

*Respectful* use of cell phones and ECD's are expected at all times per the following guidelines. The unauthorized use of cell phones, or other electronic communication devices (ECD), including IPODS and MP3 players, and electronic storage devices (ESD) are strictly prohibited in classrooms, other rooms, restrooms, locker rooms, and media center/library, during the school day from 7:40 a.m. until 2:26 p.m. Students are considered in violation of this policy when cell phones or other ECD and ESD items are in use, ringing, playing music, texting, talking on, filming, in sight or taking pictures.

In this classroom, the expectation is that students will leave their cell phones/communication devices in their lockers, in the phone pockets provided, or in some other way out of sight.

## **Discipline for the violation of this policy and inappropriate use of cell phones or other devices:**

**1st Offense** – The teacher will confiscate the cell phone or electronic device until the end of the school day, return the device with a warning, and provide the office with a copy of the warning. (Handbook). **Mrs. Hess will also assign a 30-minute detention for insubordination of class expectations.**

**2nd Offense** – The teacher will confiscate the device and turn it into the office; the device will be returned to the student after meeting with the principal.

**3rd Offense** – Confiscated and turned into the office; parent required to pick up the device or call an administrator.

**4th Offense** – 1 day OSS; Principals reserve the right to disallow students from carrying any cell phones or other electronic devices unless there is a documented personal health needs. Further offenses may result in increased suspension days.