

English 9 Course Syllabus 2016-2017



Teacher: Erin Coen

Room: 241

Contact Information:

Email: erin.coen@apsva.us

Phone (*English Office*): 703-228-5368

Website: mscoenyhs.weebly.com

Course Overview:

Welcome to Yorktown High School and English 9! Over the course of the year we will master skills and explore larger questions: Is humankind good or evil by nature? What makes us who we are? What experiences shape us, and how do those experiences do so? As we explore these questions, we will read different texts and connect them to the ideas and principles we learn in World History II. We will learn how to read complex texts, how to establish our own ideas about the text and how to express those ideas with sophistication and maturity through our writing.

Expectations:

Respect: Your behavior should consistently reflect Yorktown's ROCS. Respect includes respecting the classroom space, the materials given to you, the teacher, your classmates, and all ideas expressed in class, regardless of your personal opinions.

Preparedness: You are expected to come to class prepared every day. This means with all necessary materials, and completed homework. This also includes coming to class on time.

Technology: You are expected to utilize the technology you have been privileged with in school-appropriate ways. This includes no Tweeting, Snapchatting, Instagramming, or social media or any kind unless specified by the teacher. This also includes no Skype chatting, G-chatting, texting, or similar. Earbuds and cell phones may not be used except when specified. The first time you use your phone inappropriately, it is a warning. The second time, you will place your phone on white board shelf at the front of the room. The third time, the phone will be taken away and given to Ms. Evans.

Major Units of Study: Including, but not limited to

Mythology and Epic: selections from Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, and Homer's *The Odyssey*

William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*

Harper Lee, *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Elie Wiesel, *Night*

Research paper writing

William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*

Units are taught in no particular order, as a limited number of books requires flexibility and compromise on the part of all English 9 teachers.

***Note:** There will be a list kept of who has/has not returned the school-issued books. If you fail to return your text, **you must** purchase a replacement text for the school. Names of students who fail to return a book(s) by the end of the year will be submitted to the business office and billed accordingly.

Electronic Tools:

Each class will have its own GoogleClassroom page and corresponding GoogleCalendar. Please note that access to GoogleApps for Education, including Classroom, are limited to those with an Arlington Public Schools email address.

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Class Materials: NEEDED BY MONDAY, SEPT. 12

- APS-issued MacBook Air (once issued)
- An English binder (for **English only**) and 3 dividers
- Loose-leaf paper
- Post-It notes
- Pens/Pencils
- Highlighters

English/World History II Block Class

The goal of the English 9/World History II block class is to promote and enhance interdisciplinary learning. You will be expected to apply the skills you learn in English to your World History class and vice versa. Occasionally, there will be interdisciplinary activities or assignments; those will be explained in detail by Mr. Holland and myself when the time comes.

PLEASE NOTE: While World History II and English 9 are “block taught,” you will receive **TWO SEPARATE GRADES**. Should you have questions about your history class or history assignments, or other worries, concerns, or questions related to history, please communicate those with Mr. Holland.

Grading:

APS GRADING SCALE			
Letter Grade	Percentages	Quality Points	AP & IB Quality Points
A	90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100	4.0	5.0
B+	87, 88, 89	3.5	4.5
B	80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86	3.0	4.0
C+	77, 78, 79	2.5	3.5
C	70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76	2.0	3.0
D+	67, 68, 69	1.5	2.5
D	60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66	1.0	2.0
E	0-59	0.0	0.0

- Student grades reflect student achievement and not student behavior.
- Quarterly grades will round up when the percentage is .5 or higher.
- In addition to achievement, work habits as noted in the report card comments will be evaluated for each course using the following symbols:

- + - Surpasses Expectations
- # - Meets Expectations
- ^ - Approaching Expectations
- N - Needs Improvement

- The final grade is required to be calculated using the quality points and not percentages, letter grades, number or point systems.
- Just homework can be no more than 15% of the student’s grade.

Assignments are based on the following categories and are weighted as follows:

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Formative assessments (homework, classwork, quizzes, etc)	= 40%
Summative assessments (papers, projects, exams, etc)	= 60%

Formative assessments will be graded and input into StudentVue and ParentVue once per week. Summative assessments take longer to grade – as you are submitting your best work, I will give it the time and consideration it deserves. Please be patient with these grades.

Late Work:

Late work will be accepted on a “three strikes” style policy. Understanding that everyone makes mistakes or has a forgetful moment, you may hand in late work three times without penalty. After that, it is expected that you meet with me to discuss why this pattern has developed. However, if the pattern continues, late formative work will be accepted for 60% credit until the end of the unit. For example, you may not hand in work for *The Odyssey* if we have already moved onto *Romeo and Juliet*.

Late summative work will be accepted without penalty for two days following the due date, and for 60% credit for a week following. After that, late summative work will not be accepted.

The deadline for turning in any make-up or late work for the current unit is always **one week** before the end of the official grading period. In order for me to be able to grade work in a timely fashion, this deadline exists. Should students have questions, they must speak to me before this deadline.

Extensions: You may apply for an extension for summative work **only**. When you do so, you must see me outside of class, explain why you need an extension, and show me your progress thus far on the assignment. Extensions must be applied for at least two days before the due date, and will not be given for work that has not been started as of the due date.

Computer deadlines: Large summative assignments will often require you to hand in both a printed and electronic copy. Electronic copies are due before class begins, printed copies are due in class.

Revising Work:

A large part of excelling in English is understanding that writing is a constant work-in-progress. Revisions are encouraged, and may be done for full credit. However, the above late policies apply for revised work as well. Summative revisions are due one week after the original is returned.

Absences and Tardiness:

Work missed due to an **absence** is your responsibility. Should you be absent, you are expected to check the Google Classroom page and ask me upon your return to school. For pre-arranged absences, you are expected to come and see me beforehand to pick up any work you will be missing. As per Yorktown policy, you have **one day** after you return to school to hand in work from when you were absent.

Tardiness includes not being in your seat, prepared for class, by the time the bell rings. A reminder: first period starts when the bell rings at 8:19, not after the Pledge of Allegiance has been said. **Any tardy must be accompanied by a note from a teacher or other faculty member or it is unexcused.**

Final Exam:

The final exam in English 9 will be project-based and will count for a large summative assessment in the fourth quarter. Each quarter is equally weighted when contributing to your final grade.

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Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarizing):

The English Department at Yorktown follows a uniform policy for violations of plagiarism and academic dishonesty. This is as follows:

1. First offence: a **ZERO** will be given to all parties involved
2. Second offence: a **ZERO** will be given to all parties involved, as well as a referral to the respective dean.

In cases of academic dishonesty, there is no chance for remediation.

Please note that plagiarism does not simply mean taking credit for previously-published work. Any act of plagiarism is considered a serious offense and intellectual theft, and will be treated accordingly.

Disciplinary action will be taken against all parties included. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

1. Copying someone else's work (ANY work), in whole or in part, unpublished or published in any format.
2. Copying and pasting – in any amount – from any outside source without citation.
3. Copying and pasting and changing a few words (lack of any original thought).
4. Copying anyone else's already established idea and claiming it as your own.
5. Failing to give credit to phrasings, opinions, or ideas of others in any way.
6. Talking or communicating at all during a quiz, test, or exam.

Outside Help:

Should you need assistance outside of class, please do not hesitate to ask! I am available before school, during Patriot Period, and after school on Mondays, as I have coaching responsibilities the rest of the week.

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Please remove this page and return to Ms. Coen. Please retain your copy of the English syllabus for reference

Due Friday, September 9

Student's name, printed

Class period

Student email address

Parent/guardian's name

Parent/guardian's preferred phone number

Parent/guardian's email address

I have read the English 9 syllabus and understand the expectations and guidelines it outlines.

Student signature

Parent/guardian's signature

YES, please use the above email address to invite me to my student's Google Classroom page, once this option is made available.