

English 9/ Intro. to Writing and Literature

Ms. Sinda Fitz B-28

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This course is designed to help you develop critical thinking and academic skills necessary for continued success at Sheldon. My hope is that you will find this class a lively place to exchange ideas and increase your understanding of yourself and the world.

Our first term will concentrate on improving your writing. We will work at developing a claim and supporting it. You will be responsible for several short literary essays and a mini research project. This writing will be supported by activities in your ninth grade keyboarding class.

Our second term will place a greater emphasis on a variety of literature including drama. In addition, you will be expected to read books of your own selection outside of class and complete projects covering them.

All students will maintain a writing journal and record daily class notes. Grammar and vocabulary will be taught throughout course with regular tests and activities to reinforce these skills.

Texts: ***The Language of Literature***, McDougal, Littell
The Absolutely True Autobiography of a Part Time Indian, Sherman Alexie
Night, Elie Weisel
The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros
Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare
The Odyssey, Homer
Student choice novels

Movies: We will watch selections from a variety of movies to support activities in class. None of these movies have been rated higher than PG-13. Please contact me if you are concerned about your student viewing PG-13 movies.

Grades: Grades for the class are weighted by category and distributed as follows:

Term 1		Term 2	
Class Work	25%	Class Work	25%
Essays	20%	Essays	20%
Mini Research Assignment	20%	Final Synthesis Project	20%
Tests and Quizzes	20%	Tests and Quizzes	20%
Book Projects	5%	Book Projects	5%
Journal	10%	Journals	10%

Late and Make-up Work: Assignments are due on the date they are assigned. Late work will not be accepted for full credit **unless you meet with me first**. Otherwise, late work is half credit. Assignments are posted on the white board and my website. Please check these places. It is your responsibility to inquire about missed assignments and make up missing work during Sheldon's Common Time. Make-up work should be completed within three days of a student's return to class unless a separate plan has been approved by me.

Plagiarism: Any student work which contains the words or ideas of another person without proper citation is plagiarism. The consequences for submitting work that is not your own are an initial score of 0%, a phone call home, and a possible option (at the discretion of the instructor) to re-do the assignment for half-credit.

Materials:

1. A section in your 3-ring binder for this class
2. Non -spiral composition notebook
3. Pens, pencils, and notebook paper
4. 4GB USB storage device recommended but not required

Class Expectations

1. Please come ready to talk, write, read and share.
2. Be on time to class. You can't learn if you aren't here.
3. Complete activities and reading on schedule. Do your best work. Assignments that do not meet required specifications will be returned for correction without a grade.
Accommodations will be made for those who need them.
4. **CD, MP3 players, and cell phones are not allowed in class.** Phones and other devices in sight, or in use, will be confiscated and turned in to the vice principal for students to pick up after school.
5. Water is permitted in the class room; no **other food or drink in class** unless sanctioned by the teacher.

Sheldon Attendance Policy: Students late to class will be marked tardy. Two tardies equals one absence. Ten tardies will lead to an administrative referral. Six or more absences may lead to reduced credit for the term.

School related absences will not be marked against you. All missed work will be turned in or completed during make up work during common time within three days of their return to class.

Consequences for Unacceptable Behavior

1. Verbal reminder
2. Private conference with me
3. Parent contact; parent conference
4. Administrative referral

Contact: Grades and class information can be accessed on line by going to my website. To access this information open the Sheldon website, go to the English department and click on my name, follow the link to grades from my webpage, then type in your last name and student password. These grades are periodically updated every three to four weeks.

I have read the information on this form.

Student name (print) _____ Student signature _____

Parent name (print) _____ Parent signature _____