

9-10 English Syllabus – Discovery Honors Core

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What is 9-10 English?

9-10 English is a required course for graduation from Windsor High School. Readings include novels, biographies, short stories, poetry, plays, critical essays and reference materials. The literature we'll study this year includes Greek mythology & The Odyssey, Julius Caesar, John Steinbeck's Of Mice & Men, Ursula LeGuin's iconic A Wizard of Earthsea, and Elie Wiesel's autobiographical Night.

Students are expected to consistently make connections between our studies and their own lives, and thus to create for themselves the deep & personal meaning from the stories we'll hear. Our work this year will be viewed in the light of a recurring pattern in literature and life—the Hero's Journey. By year's end, the students as well as the teacher will be expected to connect elements from each of our core classes (English, World History, and Integrated Science) to our own lives and to explain the ways in which we have lived the Hero's Journey.

The skills-base for the core involves extensive reading and analytical writing, research, digital literacy, public speaking & critical inquiry, and ample opportunities for artistic expression.

Materials Needed

- ◆ 2 inch 3-ring binder
- ◆ 3 dividers with labels
- ◆ loose-leaf lined paper
- ◆ 1 spiral notebook with at least 100 pages
- ◆ black or blue pens
- ◆ highlighters
- ◆ a device with internet connection at home

The spiral notebook will be used for our in-class journals only. The dividers for your binder should be labeled "Notes", "Handouts", and "Returned Work." Notes will be taken in Cornell Note style. Make sure you have plenty of paper in your binder!

Grades

While every assignment has a point value based upon the amount of work it should require, your grades are grouped into four categories which count for a given percentage of your grade: essays/tests/quizzes (50%), homework (20%), classwork (20%), and participation (10%). I use an online grading program (JupiterGrades) which allows parents and students to monitor grades; it also serves as a means of communicating via email to the whole class. Each student & parent will receive login instructions and are expected to check their grades regularly.

Digital Literacy & Online Activities

The digital world is a rich source of information, a dynamic environment in which to express one's creativity, and a critical location in which to do business. It would be a disservice to you if we did not develop our skills in both navigating and using the tools available there. Many assignments require students to have internet access for viewing online media, posting and commenting on bulletin-board style forums, and creating digital media of their own. Students will also have to create accounts at several sites in order to do this. Sites where student registration is required include:

- Google (used for submitting and sharing online work as well as online discussions)
- JupiterGrades (see above)
- Piktochart, Infogram, and Easel.ly (for creating infographics)
- Remind.com (for sending updates & reminders to students via text message)
- Instagram (for creative writing)

Other online activities will be structured as the need arises. No student will be asked to use an online site which requires any form of payment nor which requires their content to be publically visible without their consent.

Policies

I expect all members of the core to adhere to accepted standards of academic and personal integrity. Show the respect that you and we as a community of learners deserve. Assignments missed due to an absence must be turned in upon your return to class with a note from a parent (including phone number) explaining the reason for the absence. Otherwise, NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED.

A final note.....

I am here to help you succeed – and I am human, too. Stop by to say hello. Tell me how it's going. Ask me about things you don't understand or want to know more about. I'm available at lunch and after 4th block each B-day. You can also reach me by phone or email. Please check in, even if for no reason other than to say hi.