

9th Grade English Syllabus

Ms.Latis (room 205)

Corina.Latis@WashoeSchools.net

ENGLISH 1- 2

Grades: 9th regular

Credits: 0.5/semester

Length: 1 year

Freshman English is a comprehensive English course of literature, composition, and language including listening and speaking. **The literature component** includes reading and comprehending a wide range of literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry. In **the writing component** of the course, students will engage in response to literature activities, directly related to the literary productions we read in class, as well as practice writing in specific genres such as narrative, argumentative, or informative/explanatory. **The study of language** addresses usage, mechanics, and vocabulary development.

Textbooks and Materials Required:

Elements of Literature (The Third Course), Elements of Language (The Third Course), and various literary works of fiction, drama, and poetry (e.g. *The Odyssey, Romeo and Juliet, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Circuit, Anthem, etc.*)

Please bring the following materials to each class period:

- one **notebook** with several dividers: notes, vocabulary, journal writing, assignments, projects, etc.
- **pens** (blue or black) and **pencils**
- **highlighters:** 1 yellow, 1 pink, and 1 blue, if possible
- any **printouts** or other **reading materials** we are currently using in class.

Community of Learners: Throughout the school year, we will work together to build a balanced learning environment where everyone's voice is heard and valued, where experience, values, and ideas are respectfully and confidently shared. This classroom will be upheld as a secure space where principled, reflective students feel comfortable thinking, inquiring, and communicating in a caring, open-minded manner.

Classroom expectations are as follows:

1. **Be punctual and ready to learn:** Please use the restroom between classes. Students are expected to be in the classroom with all materials needed before the bell rings for the start of class. When the bell rings, you need to be sitting in your assigned seat.
Tardy = students who are not in their seat when the bell rings. If tardy, students are to come in quietly and not disrupt instruction.
2. **Hall passes** will be given only in extreme circumstances. If an extreme circumstance comes up, wait for an appropriate time to ask for a hall pass. **If I am in the middle of giving a lecture, that is not the time to ask.**
3. If you have a phone on you, **WCSD policy states it must be turned off in the classroom.** **At the beginning of class, you will receive 5 seconds to get out your cell phone, turn it off and put it in your backpack.** Unless advised otherwise by your teacher, if a cell phone is seen after this point, regardless of whether it is in use, it will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the class or turned over to the Students' Services Office.
4. **Be respectful:**
 - a) **Everyone has a right to learn and be respected:** Respect yourself and the rest of us by using appropriate language and wearing appropriate clothing. No put downs, swear words, or slang words with demeaning connotations will be accepted. Be decent.
 - b) **The five classroom expectations (posted on the wall) are the framework to succeed in class.** I will handle discipline on a case-by-case basis. However, direct defiance to the teacher or repeated class disruptions will result in an immediate office referral.
 - c) **Respect property:** Respect all property (school property, personal property, and others' property).
5. **Be clean:** **Absolutely no eating, or gum chewing. Don't expect that others will clean-up your mess. Please pick up after yourself.**
6. **I dismiss you not the bell:** Please remain seated until I have dismissed you.

7. Attendance is mandatory:

- a) Attendance is essential for effective learning. **Being present in class, physically and mentally, will be part of your overall grade.** You may not be excused from my class by another teacher without first seeking my permission.
- b) **If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain any missed classwork and homework.** Send me an email, and I will either post it in Teams or answer your email to keep you updated. If you forget to contact me via email, ask me on the very first day back to school. **You are not to use class time to obtain missed work.** I am available in room 205, before and after school. For any questions or concerns, you can write to me at: corina.latis@washoeschools.net
- c) **If you missed a quiz, arrange to take it immediately. It is your responsibility to make these arrangements. I will not and cannot track you down.** If you do not make up quizzes in a timely manner (before graded quizzes are returned to the students who were present), you will earn a “zero” on the quiz or test.
- d) **Unexcused** absences on the day of an assignment, test, quiz, project, presentation, paper, etc. will result in a zero.

8. Do your best work and turn it on time. All assignments will be due on the designated due date. They will be accepted for full credit only on the day they are due. For each day of delay you will lose 5%. In the case of major illnesses or important events, special arrangements may be made at the teacher’s discretion.

- a) Write/Type your **full name on all assignments.**
- b) **All major assignments, essays, projects must be typed:** The final draft format has to be 12-point font, double-spaced, 1” margins, a “normal font” such as Arial, Century Gothic, Times New Roman. See **MLA Handout, General Set-Up of Your Papers** for details.
The first draft is never to be turned in as a final draft.

9. Academic Gradebook:

- **classwork & homework-25%**
- **formative assessments - quizzes -30%**
- **summative assessments - tests/papers/projects-35%**
- **final exam: - 10%**

10. **Grading Scale**

A 90 - 100% B 80 - 89% C 70 - 79% D 60 - 69% F below 60%

11. **Citizenship Gradebook**

- responsible decision-making – 30%
- self-awareness/self-management – 35%
- social awareness/relationship skills 35%

12. **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism (copying work from another source without giving proper credit) is completely unacceptable. If you plagiarize on any assignment, I will:

- a) give you a “0” on the assignment with no opportunity to re-do the work for credit.
- b) immediately and directly refer you to Student Services.
- c) contact your parents.

The above classroom non-negotiables are designed to establish a safe and positive learning environment. A violation of any of the expectations will result in the following:

13. **Progressive Discipline Plan**

- a) verbal warning
- b) parent/guardian contact
- c) administrative intervention.

Behavior deemed "extreme" and/or "dangerous" will result in immediate administrative intervention.

14. **Covid-19 Safety Guidelines:**

- a) Masks are required in the school building;
- b) Regular sanitation and hand-washing;

Please sign below and return this page to Ms. Latis at corina.latis@washoeschools.net

I have read the information regarding **the classroom expectations, academic and citizenship responsibilities**, and discussed them with my child. I understand that my child and I will be held accountable for the information, rules, and policies listed in this form. The student will keep pages 1 to 4 in his or her English binder for easy reference.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Contact Information (Circle your preferred method of contact)

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Home/Cell Phone # _____

Work Phone #/Hours _____

Secure Email Address _____

