English 9 Syllabus  
2015-2016  

English 9 Team:  Liz Bakken – Period 6 (C109); Lisa Greeves – Period 3 (C115) & Period 5 (C115);  Karen Quinn - Period 3 (C129), Period 5 (C129), Period 8 (C129); Mary-Elizabeth Ertel – Period 2 (C123), Period 3 (C123), Period 7 (C123);  Kelly Tierney – Period 6 (C111), Period 7 (C109), Period 8 (C111);  Jeff Weaver – Period 2 (C109), Period 3 (C109), Period 5 (C109), Period 6 (C109)

https://fcps.blackboard.com

Afterschool Availability: Late Bus Days –Thursdays; other afternoons by appointment

Course Description:

Welcome to Fairfax High School and English 9. This course builds on students' abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking through the exploration of a variety of literature organized by genre and theme. Through varied activities both independently and in groups, grammar, composition, and vocabulary skills are incorporated into the study of selected works of literature and the writing of literary analysis. Activities are designed to foster higher level thinking skills, and independent thought and scholarship are encouraged. Oral communication skills are also fostered. Instruction is differentiated so that standard of learning goals are met and the individual talents of students are demonstrated in various creative and critical thinking applications.

Course Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is for every student to increase his or her knowledge and proficiency at analyzing texts and communicating ideas. These goals work with those of English 10 and English 11 to prepare students for the state SOL English exams, which are given in 11th grade.

One of our primary texts will be *Elements of Literature*. Our readings will also consist of varied texts including short stories, nonfiction, poetry, epics, and drama. Please refer to the attachment Reading Materials Addendum for further information.

Assessment Plan/Grading Factors:

Each assignment will be worth 100 percent.

10% Classwork and Homework

50% Minor Assessments  
emphasis on working with skills and materials, including minor writings, projects and assessments

40% Major Assessments  
emphasis on demonstrating mastery of material, including major/end-of-unit writings, projects and assessments
When calculating the final grade, each quarter will count 2/9. A cumulative final exam will account for 1/9 of the overall year grade. There will be no midterm exam.

At the end of the marking period, the total points achieved will be converted into a letter grade according to the Fairfax County Public Schools grading system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Below 64</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Second Chances/ Late work Policies:**

Students who score below a passing grade on a major assessment will have the opportunity to retake or revise the assessment. In order to ensure a successful outcome the second time around, the student should coordinate with the teacher individually to outline a timely plan for the second-chance process.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Any assignment submitted after the teacher collects it is considered late. Any assignment submitted late will be given a grade that is no higher than a 65%. No late work will be accepted the last week of the quarter.

**Winter Break Policy:**

Fairfax High School celebrates the Winter Break as family time that is homework free time. No homework will be assigned over break.

**FHS Attendance Policy:**

When a student has an unexcused absence the student has the sole responsibility to obtain from the teacher any quiz, test or other written assignment. The work must be made up by the next non-intervention time class period. Students can earn a maximum of 65% of the earned grade. Other classroom activities cannot be made up. Work that was due on the day of the unexcused absence is subject to the teacher’s or collaborative team’s late work policy.

**Cheating Policy:**

The first time a student cheats at FHS, the student must retake the assessment for a grade of no higher than 65%. The second time the student cheats, the student will receive a zero on the assignment. It is then up to the teacher to decide if they will give the student a make-up assignment. A referral should be written any time for the administration in order for disciplinary consequences to be assigned, to keep track of any offenses, and in order for honor societies, club sponsors, and coaches to be informed. Cheating can be but is not limited to the following examples:

- Turning in the same work as another student
- Failure to cite an author for ideas incorporated in a student paper
- Cutting and pasting text from one or more websites
- Handing in a paper downloaded from the internet or written by someone other than the student.

**Materials for Class:**
• A binder with dividers for handouts, notes, homework, journals, etc. (Lined paper)
• Blue or Black ink pens for writing
• #2 pencils for standardized tests
• Agenda planner
• Text or assigned novel or play

Expectations:

• Come prepared every day with your materials, including the textbook or novel we are reading.
• Be prompt. When the bell rings, you need to be in your assigned seat, with your materials out and ready to begin.
• Be polite. Respect everyone in and out of class. Be a good listener and add constructively to class discussions.
• Take care of personal business between classes. In case of an emergency, you need to fill out a student planner pass and get the teacher’s signature. According to school policy, there will be no passes during the first fifteen minutes or the last fifteen minutes of class.

Personal Electronic Device Policy:

Unless specified for classroom instructional use by the teacher, personal electronic devices, including headphones, ear buds, etc., must be silent and out of sight in our classrooms. If this policy is violated, the device will be confiscated. During testing, the use of personal electronic devices is absolutely prohibited and is considered cheating. If this policy is violated, the device will be confiscated, and the test results will be voided with the possibility of no make-up.
This year we will read a variety of texts including novels and book-length nonfiction. As a class, we may read books that meet our course objectives and provide us with the opportunity to explore issues faced by society today and throughout history. A committee of administrators, teachers, and parents at your school has approved these books. As a class we will read the following books together.

- *The Elements of Literature: 4th Course*
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Odyssey* by Homer
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare
- *Cyrano De Bergerac* by Edmond Rostland
- *Ellen Foster* by Kay Gibbons
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemmingway
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest Gaines
- *Short Story Anthologies*
- *Leaving Atlanta: A Novel* by Tayari Jones
- *The Wanderings of Odysseus: The Story of The Odyssey* by Rosemary Sutcliff
- *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose
- *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner

Please note that some of the books you will read this year may contain mature content and/or controversial material (i.e. offensive language, violence, and/or implied or explicit sexual situations). The resources listed below can be used to see book reviews and get more information about the books we will use in our class.

- Bartleby.com: Great Books Online [http://www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com)
- Book Reporter [http://www.bookreporter.com](http://www.bookreporter.com)
- Teen Reads [http://www.teenreads.com](http://www.teenreads.com)
If your parent or guardian would like to review any of these texts or request an alternate reading assignment please have him or her contact me directly by phone (###) ###-#### or email at teachername@fcps.net

**Parent/GuardianAcknowledgement and Signature**

My signature below indicates that I have read, understood, and reviewed the attached class syllabus/brochure with my child.

______________________________
Parent/Guardian SIGNATURE

______________________________
PRINTED Parent/Guardian Name(s)

______________________________
Date
Welcome to Fairfax High School! I hope you’re ready for a magnificent year.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
English 9 Honors is a challenging and stimulating course that assumes you are highly capable readers and writers who are interested in a rigorous dialogue of ideas about the literature we read. We also assume that you are interested in improving the writing skills you will need to meet the challenges of high school and beyond.

We will read and write every day in this course. We will read and analyze a variety of literature, including significant works by well-renowned authors and books of your choice. We will write in a variety of forms and genres, some of which will be dictated by me and others which will be of your choice.

In English 9 Honors, we will also:
- Apply critical reading skills: summarizing, paraphrasing, analysis, inference, synthesis, and evaluation
- Acquire strategies to develop an extensive vocabulary applicable to reading, writing, and oral fluency
- Identify the differing characteristics that distinguish the literary forms of prose, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction
- Analyze how an author conveys meaning in a text through his/her use of literary and stylistic devices
- Develop narrative, literary, expository, and persuasive writings, with a particular emphasis on analysis
- Write analytical essays that include assertion, evidence, and commentary
- Properly credit the source of both quoted and paraphrased ideas by using Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation to avoid plagiarism
- Use grammatically correct language, including vocabulary appropriate to the topic, audience, and purpose
- Develop higher-level questions to prompt whole-class and group discussion

The following list covers the major works we may read and analyze together as a class; you will also do a significant amount of independent reading that isn’t listed here. Additionally, we will read various other short pieces (essays, short stories, poems, newspaper articles, etc.) from the anthology listed below and from outside sources:

- The House on Mango Street, by Sandra Cisneros
- The Odyssey, by Homer
- The Catcher in the Rye, by J.D. Salinger
- Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare
- Elements of Literature, Third Course (Holt)
- Of Mice and Men, by John Steinbeck
- Night, by Elie Wiesel
- Animal Farm, by George Orwell
- Short Story Anthologies
- Oedipus by Sophocles

MATERIALS NEEDED
Organization is the backbone of success. In order to be successful, you must obtain the following materials and bring them to class every day:
- A 3-ring binder (1 ½ inches) and 5 dividers for handouts and returned assignments (If you decide to keep a larger binder for all of your classes, it will also be acceptable to have a designated English section in that larger binder instead of keeping a separate binder)
- A spiral notebook (please see the section below for more details on this notebook)
- College-ruled, lined paper (filler paper) in your binder
- Black or blue ink pens and several highlighters (preferably of different colors)

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS STUDENTS
You are now freshmen in high school and are no strangers to how school works. As such, I am assuming that you are mature, responsible, serious students who know how to treat each other and how to conduct yourselves in an academic setting. I am expecting the best out of you; your work should be a constant reflection of your diligence and persistence. To be successful in this class, you are required to be an engaged, active participant at all times. Your preparation of and attention to the material is essential, not only for your own success, but also for the success of those around you.

- **Come to class every day:**
  Attendance is essential. There is no way to make up the presentation of material, class discussions, or the analysis of literature that will occur on a daily basis. If you have an excused absence, you have the time period equal to the number of days you were absent to make up the work. If you have an unexcused absence, you have the sole responsibility of obtaining from me any quiz, test or other written assignment that you missed; I will not go out of my way to get the work for you if your absence is unexcused. The work must be made up by the next class period, and you will receive a reduced grade. Work that was due on the day of the unexcused absence will be counted as late work (see below for more details on the late-work policy for all English 9 Honors students). Other classroom activities done on the day of your unexcused absence cannot be made up.

- **Come to class on time:**
  When the bell rings, I expect you to be in your seat. After class, I will dismiss you, not the bell.

- **Come to class prepared:**
  This course will follow a rigorous pace. Most likely, you will read more and write more than you’ve ever done in your entire life. Stay on top of your work and complete everything to the best of your ability.

- **Be committed and behave as a literary scholar:**
  An honors course demands a high level of intellectual engagement in the curriculum. In our classroom, our code of conduct is as follows:
  - Follow directions the first time they are given.
  - Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
  - Use appropriate language; no put-downs, teasing, bullying, or other inappropriate words.

  Finally, be respectful. This means respecting the space you’re in, the materials you’re using, the opinions of your classmates, and the individuals around you. If you do not follow this code of conduct, you will face appropriate consequences that are fair and consistently administered. These consequences may include having a conversation with me, spending time after class, lunch or after-school detention, a phone call home, or a discipline referral sent to the principal’s office.

- **Be honest:**
  Cheating and plagiarizing simply are not tolerated. If you are caught doing so, there will be severe consequences. The first time a student cheats at FHS, the student must retake the assessment for a grade of no higher than 65%. The second time the student cheats, the student will receive a zero on the assignment. Any time a student cheats, that student will receive a disciplinary referral; administration, club sponsors, honor society sponsors, coaches, and parents will all be informed. Please reference your student passport for a more detailed explanation of the FHS Cheating Policy.

- **Do your work on time:**
  I expect every student to turn in work on the day it is due. Major assignments should be submitted late for partial credit. Homework is due the next class period unless otherwise specified. Fairfax High School celebrates the Winter Break as family time that is homework free time. No homework will be assigned over the break.
• **Once you’re here, stay here:**

I expect you to use the restroom during the passing period, but I also understand that emergencies arise. If you raise your hand to ask permission to leave the room, I reserve the right to say, “No.” Per Fairfax High School’s pass policy, students must remain in class during the first and last fifteen (15) minutes of each period and must carry their passport with them at all times when in the halls during class.

**PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

Unless specified for classroom instructional use by the teacher, personal electronic devices must be silent and out of sight in our classroom. If this policy is violated, the device will be confiscated. During testing, the use of personal electronic devices is absolutely prohibited. If this policy is violated, the device will be confiscated and the test results will be voided with the possibility of no make-up.

**WINTER BREAK POLICY**

Fairfax High School celebrates the Winter Break as a family time that is homework free time. No homework will be assigned over break. Students may have a long-term assignment due after the break. The students will have time in class to work on it, and, with careful planning, students will have enough time out of class to prepare for the assignment while keeping the Winter Break homework free.

**GRADING POLICY**

Grading in English 9 Honors will be consistent and fair. Items will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Content Application</td>
<td>Content Mastery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classwork</td>
<td>minor writings, projects, and assessments</td>
<td>major/end of unit writings, projects, and assessments (eligible for second-chance assessment opportunity)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each quarter, you will earn a letter grade according to the FCPS grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>64-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SECOND CHANCES**

Students should coordinate with the teacher to revise major assignments.

**FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION**

Your final grade for the year will be based on the following breakdown:

1st Quarter Grade = 2/9 or roughly 22% of your final grade
2nd Quarter Grade = 2/9 or roughly 22% of your final grade
3rd Quarter Grade = 2/9 or roughly 22% of your final grade
4th Quarter Grade = 2/9 or roughly 22% of your final grade
Comprehensive Final Exam = 1/9 or roughly 12% of your final grade
Reading Materials Addendum

This year we will read a variety of texts including novels and book-length nonfiction. As a class, we may read books that meet our course objectives and provide us with the opportunity to explore issues faced by society today and throughout history. A committee of administrators, teachers, and parents at your school has approved the books listed on the syllabus.

Please note that some of the books you will read this year may contain mature content and/or controversial material (i.e. offensive language, violence, and/or implied or explicit sexual situations). The resources listed below can be used to see book reviews and get more information about the books we will use in our class.

- Fairfax County Library http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/
- Bartleby.com: Great Books Online http://www.bartleby.com
- Book Reporter http://www.bookreporter.com
- Book Spot http://www.bookspot.com/
- Teen Reads http://www.teenreads.com

If your parent or guardian would like to review any of these texts or request an alternate reading assignment please have him or her contact me directly by phone (###) ###-#### or email at teachername@fcps.net

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement and Signature
My signature below indicates that I have read, understood, and reviewed the attached class syllabus/brochure with my child.

_________________________________________  ________________________________  ______
Parent/Guardian SIGNATURE  PRINTED Parent/Guardian Name(s)  Date