

COURSE TITLE: FRESHMAN ENGLISH, HONORS (2009-2010)

Ms. Fairhead

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In a rigorous and more challenging curriculum, students focus on reviewing and strengthening basic grammar concepts, etymology, and writing skills. In addition, students read and interpret several types of literature: novels, novellas, short stories, poetry, and plays.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Credit: 1.0 unit

Eligible Grade Level: 9

Prerequisite: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Students should be able to:

1. Decipher the meaning of new words by recognizing Greek and Latin prefixes, roots, and suffixes in our language.
2. Identify and then use vocabulary words taken from Freshman English literature selections.
3. Identify the eight parts of speech and all types of phrases and clauses and identify their function in sentences and paragraphs.
4. Use these basic grammatical concepts to focus on improved writing mechanics and style.
5. Construct a well-structured and well-conceived paragraph and short essay.
6. Understand, analyze, and appreciate various genres of literature: short stories, poetry, drama, novels, novellas, myths, and epics.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. First Semester (Not necessarily in this order)
 - A. Summer novel tests
 - B. *Mythology*, Edith Hamilton
 - C. *The Odyssey*, selections from the textbook
 - D. Short stories from hard cover literature text and handouts
 - E. Epic/Allegorical Novel: *Watership Down* by Richard Adams
 - F. Contemporary Fiction: *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
 - G. Psychological novel: *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles
 - H. Poetry Unit with selections from the textbook and outside sources
 - I. Additional novels will be assigned as individual reading units
2. Second Semester (not necessarily in this order)
 - J. Elizabethan drama: *Romeo and Juliet*, found in the textbook
 - K. Contemporary play: *West Side Story*
 - L. Classic: *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
 - M. Contemporary Science-Fiction: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
 - N. Psychological Novel: *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
 - O. Additional novels will be assigned as individual reading units
3. Grammar, etymology, vocabulary, and composition are yearlong units

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

1. Required Materials
 - A. Literature Textbook: *The Elements of Literature*, Third Course, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2007
 - B. Grammar Textbook: *Holt Handbook: Fourth Course*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2005
 - C. Supplemental literature: *see above (Please purchase supplemental literature only for the first semester as they may change for the second semester)*
 - D. Dry Erase marker(s)
 - E. Blue/Black pens, pencils, red pens, highlighters (preferably in lighter colors like yellow or pink)
 - F. 1 three subject divided college ruled notebook (and folder if the notebook does not include one)
2. Classroom Policy and Procedures
 - A. Class will begin with intentions and prayer.
 - B. Student Handbook policy for tardiness will be enforced.
 - C. The Academic Honesty and Integrity policy will be adhered to. Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for clarification of violations and consequences.
 - D. Plagiarism of any kind is not acceptable. All outside sources, if part of assignment, must be cited. *Cliff's Notes* and other similar materials should NOT be used for writing papers and are not allowed in the classroom.

- E. No food, drinks or gum are allowed in the classroom without prior consent of the teacher.
- F. Students should keep all work handed back to them in their English folders.
- G. Students should keep track of points in their notebook and make an appointment with Ms. Fairhead before or after school to discuss grades.
- H. Students should bring required materials to class each day. They may be checked at random as a homework grade.
- I. Students who have special testing needs or classroom modifications should inform Ms. Fairhead as soon as possible.
- J. Student Handbook policies and procedures will be followed in the classroom.

3. Homework Policy

- A. **Late homework is not accepted past the number of days equal to the number of days missed. See Ms. Fairhead before or after school if a special issue needs to be discussed.**
- B. Compositions will be lowered seven percentage points (one letter grade) for each day they are late, up to a maximum of four days late.
- C. Turn your homework in early if you know ahead of time that you will be absent.
- D. Homework assignments will be worth full, half, or zero credit.
- E. Daily reading and studying will be assigned; to succeed in freshman honors English, you must study/read at least 5 nights a week. Books especially must be begun well in advance of their due dates.
- F. Class preparation and participation points will be given on days chosen at random.
- G. Opportunities for extra credit will not be granted to individual students. Extra credit may be earned when performance on an assignment, a test or quiz, a class discussion, or an activity is worthy of such credit at the discretion of the instructor.
- H. Homework assignments are posted at the same location every day. Students are expected to write down their homework every day in their assignment books. Because absences are unpredictable, students must take home your books nightly.

4. Evaluation/grades

- 1. Summer books---15% (5% per book) of quarter one grade
- 2. Unit Tests--- generally between 50-100 points
- 3. Major papers and projects— generally between 50-100 points
- 4. Quizzes and shorter papers— approximately 10-30 points
- 5. Homework – generally 2-5 points per assignment
- 6. Grades are “weighted.” This translates into an approximate seven percent addition to your semester grade when it is averaged into your G.P.A.
 - A. Each quarter grade is 40% of each semester grade.
 - B. Final exams are worth 20% of the semester grade and are cumulative for the semester only.
 - C. Second semester final exam is not cumulative for the year with the exception of grammar concepts and etymology.

5. Attendance/Absence

- A. **Student who exceed their absences limit as defined in the Student Handbook will receive academic penalty.**
- B. Attendance is crucial for a complete understanding of the literature and compositions discussed in class.
 - C. It is the student’s responsibility to find out about and complete any missed work due to absence. Please get notes from a classmate and see Ms. Fairhead with questions **at an appropriate, non-disruptful time. See me for any handouts you may have missed.**
 - D. Assignments can be turned in late the number of days equal to the number of days absent. If an assignment was due on the day you were absent, **it must be turned in immediately upon return.**

6. Teacher Availability

- A. I am available before or after school by appointment. Students should see me to set up a meeting if they need assistance with class work.
- B. My voicemail is listed on the school website, but I prefer email at sfairhead@sfnets.org.
- C. Please allow 24 hours for returned phone calls and emails during the school week.