

Course Title: Foundations English 9

Course Length: 1 year

TEACHER/CONTACT

Mr. Andrew Cohen

Room 8-411

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to literature while fostering comprehensive English language development, with emphasis on the academic aspect. To some extent the Foundations English 9 course will parallel the first semester English 9 curriculum, as some students may join the mainstream English class in the second semester. Students will study classical mythology, poetry, the short story and the novel, and they will be introduced to the literary terms associated with these genres. They will develop both informal and formal writing skills by responding to literature, keeping a journal and applying the writing process to compose a descriptive and an analytical essay. Other aspects of the course include teaching of reading comprehension and vocabulary strategies, practicing correct grammar and usage, giving oral presentations, participating in group discussions and reading independently for literary appreciation and general knowledge. Foundations English 9 students earn 1.0 English credit.

LEARNER OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Read, write and speak more fluently.
- Learn the basic literary elements of poetry, the short story and the novel.
- Be introduced to basic literary analysis.
- Use reading strategies to improve reading comprehension and expand vocabulary.
- Write informally and reflectively in response to literature and life experiences.
- Write well-structured essays with an introduction, a body and a conclusion.
- Use the writing process to write with vocabulary and style which fit topic, purpose and audience.
- Express themselves orally through class participation, cooperative learning and oral presentations.
- Learn to appreciate literature and work toward becoming independent learners.

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to:

- Contribute to an effective learning environment by coming to class ready to learn and to try their best.
- Be organized and bring all necessary materials to class.
- Participate in all class activities and to support the participation of others.
- Work both independently and cooperatively.
- Complete a reasonable amount of homework and assignments on a regular basis.

TEXTS

Heroes, Gods and Monsters of Greek Myths, Evslin

The Odyssey, Fagles

Selected poems and short stories

Selected novels for independent reading

ASSESSMENTS

Students will accomplish a variety of learning activities including quizzes, tests, journal entries, vocabulary exercises, essays, class participation, oral presentations, group presentations, and homework. These activities will fall into the following categories:

- 10% Formative assessments
- 70% Summative assessments
- 20% Semester Final Exam

- HAL **H**abits and **A**ttitudes toward **L**earning will be recorded on PowerSchool and updated regularly

GRADE REPORTS

- Students and parents may access PowerSchool to see their updated scores.
- Students receive progress reports every six weeks.
- A cumulative semester grade appears on the official transcript.