

**English 9 A/B**  
**Grand Haven High School**

**Course Number: B29**

**Grade Level: 9**

**Credit: 1 (.5 per semester)**

**Prerequisite courses: None**

**Course Description**

English 9 is the required ELA class for freshmen. We will spend the year reading, thinking, writing and presenting. We will do this by utilizing a variety of texts (short stories, novels, articles, plays) and written work (writer's notebook, narratives, literary essays, personal essays, research, etc.).

**Course Objectives:**

Our plan for the year is to create a classroom that encourages students to...

- ☐ think critically
- ☐ read deeply
- ☐ communicate clearly through writing and presenting

Everything we ask you to do will focus on one or more of those three skills.

**English 9 Essential Standards**

**Reading Literature:**

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.2**

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3**

Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

**Writing:**

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.4**

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.5**

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grades 9-10 [here](#).)

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.9**

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

**Speaking & Listening:**

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4**

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

**Language:**

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.1**

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

**Texts:**

We will use a combination of digital texts and physical copies of books, stories and articles. You will not have a textbook.

**Student Expectations:**

Behavior:

Never has it been more important for us to function as a team. We are all in this together and in order for us to have a successful, safe, and fun year, we need to honor and respect each other. That means, when you are asked to do something, you do it. When you are asked to stop doing something, you stop. When you have a concern, you discuss it respectfully. If we CHOOSE KINDNESS in all that we do and say, we'll be good.

School Policies:

We will follow the student handbook for behavior and disciplinary issues, including issues of plagiarism. It is expected that students do their own work and produce original pieces.

For this year, when the mask mandates are in place, masks must be worn appropriately during the school day.

For a variety of reasons, including safety and health, GHHS does not allow backpacks in classrooms. You will need to use your lockers between classes to get the materials you need.

GHHS also has a no cellphone policy during the school day. This policy is in place both in the hallways and in ALL classrooms. It also includes the use of phones to listen to music. If you plan to bring your phone to school, you should plan to keep it in your locker. If your phone is out during the school day and a staff member sees it, s/he has the right to take it. Your phone will be brought to the office and the incident will be recorded. From here, there are a variety of consequences that increase in severity if you violate (and continue to violate) this policy.

Technology is a great thing, and it allows us to access information in the classroom like never before. You have the opportunity to use your Chromebooks in class every day. However, your Chromebooks have been given to you for instructional and learning purposes, not to provide you entertainment. We will not battle for your attention. When we do use Chromebooks, they are not to be used for Netflix, games or other social/entertainment purposes.

Supplies:

It is essential that you have your Chromebook and that it is charged. Additionally, you should plan to bring your own:

- ☐ organization tool (folder, binder, etc.) specific to English 9
- ☐ notebook for English 9
- ☐ pens / pencils (mechanical would be preferred to reduce the need to use a pencil sharpener)

- ❑ Highlighters
- ❑ Sticky notes
- ❑ earbuds / headphones that work with your Chromebook

It would also be beneficial to put together a kit of supplies like markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, scissors, etc. that you can keep in your locker. We will let you know in advance when those supplies will be needed. Most classrooms will have supplies available as well, but these will be shared.

### **Communication:**

Daily agendas, assignments, and resources will be posted on Google Classroom.

Students and parents may communicate with teachers via email or by classroom phone. See your student's personalized FAQ sheet for more information.

Please note that we cannot guarantee we will respond to your email questions when they are sent outside of school hours. We have other responsibilities that require our attention outside of the school day. We do our best to check our email as often as we can, but you need to understand that we may not be able to get to it before the next morning. As a general rule, if you send an email prior to 8:00 at night, we MAY answer it that evening. If the message comes after 8:00, we will NOT respond to it until the following day. Please plan accordingly.

### **Grading Policies:**

#### Grading Categories:

This year your coursework will fall into one of two categories: Process (formative) and Product (summative). The Process category will include all work that we do in preparation for our final products. This work will make up 40% of the semester grade. The Product category will include all final products and assessments. This category will make up 60% of the semester grade.

Final Exam: The final exam is 20% of your final grade. For English 9, we do not give a final comprehensive test. Rather, each unit final assessment will function as a double jeopardy assignment. That means it will be part of your semester grade, as well as part of your final exam grade. By the end of the semester, you will have 4-5 assessments that will make-up your final exam.

#### Late Work Policy:

You will always know what is expected of you to complete and when it is due. You will also always be given plenty of time to complete each assignment; therefore, points will be deducted for late work.

Use your access to StudentVue to stay on top of your grades. Ask questions as they arise.

### **Scope & Sequence:**

Students will work on close reading skills, writing skills, grammar and vocabulary throughout all units.

#### First Semester:

Narrative Unit

Independent Reading / Book Club Unit

*Romeo and Juliet* Unit  
Vocabulary (units 1 - 6)

Second Semester:

*Fahrenheit 451* / Research Unit  
Independent Reading/Book Club Unit  
Personal Essay Unit  
Vocabulary (units 7 - 12)