



Grand Haven High School
English 9 A & B

Course Number: B29
Grade Level: 9
Credits : 1 (.5/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

1. 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.
2. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
3. Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
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.)

Building Behavioral Expectations

T.E.A.M. GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

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5. Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
6. 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.
7. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
8. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

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:

Our goal is to create a comfortable classroom community. It is important for us to function as a team. We will be following the Team GH matrix and creating classroom contracts.

School Policies:

We will follow the district/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 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 from 7:38-2:45, including Academy and lunch. 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 (see handbook).

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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 - you will get MANY handouts & need to stay organized
- ☐ notebook for English 9 - we will use a writer's notebook this year. Periodically, you will be asked to part with it, and if it holds work for other classes, that can become an issue.
- ☐ pens/pencils - we will be writing daily
- ☐ Highlighters - I have a classroom set, but you may want to have your own as well
- ☐ Sticky notes - we will be using these to annotate texts
- ☐ earbuds/headphones that work with your Chromebook - whenever we have work time, you will be able to listen to music.

Our classroom will provide markers, glue sticks, scissors, paper, and other project materials. If you'd like your own supplies, feel free to put together a pencil pouch of your own. Or, if you'd like to contribute to the classroom stash, we will gratefully accept donations.

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 pm,

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we MAY answer it that evening. If the message comes after 8:00 pm, we will NOT respond to it until the following day. Please plan accordingly.

Grading Policy

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 and Sequence

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

First Semester:

Vocabulary (units 1 - 5)

Introduction to High School

Close Reading, Annotating, & *The Odyssey*

Narrative Elements & Short Story

Book Clubs

*All units in both semesters will include research components

Second Semester:

Vocabulary (units 6 - 10)

Romeo and Juliet

Independent Reading

Personal Essay

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