

English 9

Mrs. Charly Kusta
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Laying the Foundation Curriculum Description

English 9 moves through basic concepts and advances to the more sophisticated aspects of traditional grammar with the goal of making the students' writing and speaking clear, concise, correct, and effective. Students work on writing skills beginning with the sentence and moving quickly to the skills of paragraph and essay development. Throughout the year, this course focuses heavily on grammatical concepts, literature studies, and vocabulary development.

Themes and Texts

- Justice and Injustice *To Kill a Mockinbird*
- Archetypes, Human Nature, Conflict *The Odyssey*
- Human Relationships and Consequences *Romeo and Juliet*
- Values of Society *Fahrenheit 451*

Other novels, poems, and short stories will be assigned. The majority of these will be taken from textbooks provided by the school or by the school library. If needed, students may be required to purchase a novel for the course. Students will be given adequate notice for ordering purposes.

Materials Required

All students need the following materials to be used exclusively for this course:

1. **Two composition notebooks**
2. **Two packs of 3 x 5 lined note cards for vocabulary**
3. **Three-ring binder (1 inch) with 5 tab dividers**
4. **Packet of college-ruled paper**
5. **Blue or Black ink pens, pencils, and highlighters**
6. **Students may be responsible for purchasing an additional novel**

Classroom Assignments and Expectations

Work that is graded will fall into one of two categories—tests and daily work. Tests count 60% of the final average and daily work counts 40% of the final average. Not all assignments will result in a grade. Students should realize that mastery comes as a result of practice. Outside reading such as novels or essays may be subject to pop quizzes as well as major tests. Students are expected to read the material, write appropriate responses to the given prompts, and discuss various elements of the work including the author's style and presentation of his or her work. Students will participate in projects and oral presentations. Many of these assignments may be considered as major grades. During the year, students will write many compositions. Some will be literary based and some will not. A few may even need to be completed outside of class. The length of the compositions will vary, as will the focus.

Students will take approximately 15 vocabulary tests per semester and they will always be on the last day of the week, which will likely be Friday. Test dates are subject to change, but I will give adequate notice. ******Even if the student is absent on the day(s) preceding the test, he or she is still expected to take the test. All of the words and definitions will be available on Google Classroom. It is the student's responsibility to acquire a list of new words and terms if absent when those were given out, and they will need to review the terms on their own using online sources.**

Rules

In addition to following the rules set aside in the *Hartselle City Schools Student Handbook and Code of Conduct Manual*, students will abide by the following rules while in my classroom:

- Students will not be allowed to use their smart phones (cellular devices) in class. They should remain in their book bags, along with any other smart devices (watches, etc.). Using smart devices

for instructional purposes will be at the teacher's discretion. If a student has his or her phone out without permission, I will collect it and follow the discipline procedures in place for violation of technology usage, per HHS and HCS.

- Students who must use the restroom during instructional time may use on of their six restroom passes per semester. These restroom passes will be given to students at the end of the first week. (Those that require medical considerations should alert the nurse prior to the school year or as soon as a condition develops.) For each unused restroom pass, students will receive 2 bonus points on their semester exam or lowest test grade, should the student decide to exempt. In total, this could result in 12 bonus points added to an exam or test score.
- Students must be in their seats ready to begin work when the tardy bell rings or they will be counted tardy. Disciplinary action will be taken after the third tardy.
- **No sodas, coffee, candy, or other food will be allowed in class. Students may carry a water bottle if needed.**
- The dress code policy according to the HHS code of conduct will be enforced.

Classroom Consequences

If a student violates one of the classroom guidelines, he or she will receive subsequent consequences in the form of a discipline ladder, which is as such:

First Step: Warning (All students will be informed of guidelines and warned of the consequences the first day.)

Second Step: Parent Contact or Office Referral; this will be based upon teacher's decision and/or severity of the issue.

Third Step: Office Referral

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Tardy to Class Procedure: You are expected to be in the classroom and ready to begin work before the tardy bell rings each day. According to school guidelines, you will be written up and sent to the office on your third tardy (and each tardy thereafter) in a semester, and the office will determine appropriate punishment.

Make-up Work Procedure: ****For excused absences only.**** When you return from an excused absence, you are responsible for obtaining your make-up work. You will need to write down any missed assignments and promptly complete the work in the allotted time period for your excused absence (see Hartselle City Schools Code of Conduct). If you have any questions regarding your make-up work, see me immediately after class. Any long-term assignments (projects, papers, etc.) that you missed are still due on or before the day of your return. Please remember that this is a workshop -type class which requires in-class participation.

Substitute Procedure: When I am gone I expect your behavior to be superior. Follow all rules and routines as if I were here. I do leave a syllabus and seating chart with the substitute so that he/she will be familiar with the rules and routines of the class. All work completed with a substitute will be graded.

Finishing Early Procedure: If you should finish all of your assignments early, read quietly. Do not pack up your belongings to leave the classroom.

Late Work

A TEN-POINT DEDUCTION PER DAY WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL LATE WORK.

Make-up Work

It is the **student's responsibility** to see me **before** or **after** class about make-up work. No student will be reminded of missed work. Each student should find a friend in the class and check with his or her friend about missed work. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work before or after class; I will not discuss missed assignments during class because this results in a loss of instructional time for a majority of the class. Absence is NOT an excuse for handing in work late if the assignment was made before the absence. If a student habitually misses class on test days, this behavior will be brought to the guidance counselor's attention.

Handwriting

All submitted work must be legible. If I cannot read the work, the student will not receive credit.

Communications

The best way for students and parents to reach me is via e-mail at charly.kusta@hartselletigers.org. Because this is high school, I highly encourage the student to email me regarding questions and concerns; you should CC your parent/guardian so that he or she can remain informed of your academic concerns and/or questions, as well as encourage independence.

*All conferences must be scheduled in advance with the student and parent/guardian present.

Syllabus: Available online. Copies are available upon request.