

English 9

Winter Semester 2019

Instructor: Dr. Roden-Bow

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Office Location & Hours: Room 114 (08.15-16.15)



Course Description

The goals of English Language Arts 9 are to encourage students to develop a foundation from which to have further success in secondary language arts studies. Our class will engage in reading, writing and interpersonal communication (both in small groups and with the whole class). During the course, students will also compose some of their own written work and develop oral presentations. The skills this course will focus on are:

- **Developing and Organizing Content:** generating, gathering, and organizing ideas and information to write for an intended purpose and audience.
- **Using Knowledge of Form and Style:** drafting and revising writing, using a variety of literary, informational and graphic forms and stylistic elements appropriate for the purpose and audience.
- **Applying Knowledge of Conventions:** using editing, proofreading, and publishing skills and strategies, and knowledge of language conventions, to correct errors, to refine expression, and to present work effectively.
- **Reflecting on Skills and Strategies:** reflecting on and identifying strengths as writers, areas for improvement, and strategies most helpful at different stages in the writing process.

Course Overview

English Language Arts 9 focuses on the following five Big Ideas:

- Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy.
- Exploring stories and other texts helps us to understand ourselves and to make connections to others in the world.
- People understand text differently depending on their worldview and perspectives.
- Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.
- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

Evaluation Guidelines

Evaluation will focus upon the core competencies as outlined in the new BC curriculum (communication, thinking, and personal and social) via the following methods:

- Assignments/projects: 45% (including elements of self- and peer-assessment)
- Tests/Quizzes: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

Note: Grade weightings are subject to change.

Class Rules and Expectations

1. **Attendance & Punctuality:** Be on time - lateness is disrespectful to the teacher and the rest of the class. If you will be absent, let me know as soon as possible.
2. **Equipment:** It is your responsibility to ensure you bring a working pen, notebook, and other basic school supplies to every class.
3. **Food and Drink:** Only water is allowed in the classroom - no other food or drink at any time.
4. **Deadlines:** Every assignment will have a due date. Any late assignments will lose 10% of the mark for every day they are late. Make sure you do not leave work to the last minute, as rushed work will not be a reflection of your abilities.
5. **Plagiarism & Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is copying the work of others and submitting it as your own (e.g. other students, or work off the internet). Plagiarised work will result in a mark of zero for the assignment. Submitting work completed by others as your own is a form of academic dishonesty, and will be taken very seriously. Be warned - it is very easy for a teacher to know when work is not your own.
6. **Phones and Technology:** Mobile phones should not be used in class, and should be set to silent mode. Failure to follow this rule will result in your phone being confiscated. Use of technology (e.g. laptops) is for class purposes only and is based on trust. Inappropriate usage, such as instant messaging, playing games, or watching videos, will result in this privilege being removed.
7. **Speak in English:** English is the language shared by everyone in the class. The school's policy is that English only should be used within the school.
8. **Participate:** You should consistently take part in class discussions, ask questions, and suggest answers. This is the best way to get the most out of the course.
9. **Respect:** At all times you must treat other students and their contributions with an appropriate level of respect. Helping to keep the classroom clean and tidy shows respect for the rest of the school community.