

Standard and Honor's English 1 (grade 9) Course Syllabus

Mrs. Staunton

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Course Description: This course will be devoted to the formal development of speaking and writing skills through the use of Standard English (Grammar). Students will also study various works in World Literature that will coordinate with the times and places students will encounter in World History. These works may include, but are not limited to, *Night*, *Things Fall Apart*, *Nectar in a Sieve*, and a Shakespeare play. Students will be challenged and asked questions that require them to refer to what they have read which will foster critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. Students will also practice cursive writing and journaling. Along with these skills, students will be presented with study skill tools to enhance their learning and to help them be more successful in and out of the classroom. This course will also investigate MLA format and an in depth look at plagiarism. Writing skills will be practiced through the use of the writing process and through various writing genres and techniques.

Textbooks: *Elements of Writing*, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston (Fourth Course 1993) and *Elements of Literature, World Literature*, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston (2006)

Materials Needed: Pens (any color except red), Pencils, Loose Leaf Notebook Paper, 1” to 2” Binder (or you may share a binder with another class), 3 Hole Pocket Folder, Colored Pencils, Highlighter, Dividers. Textbooks may be purchased online (optional). *No* spiral notebooks please.

Grading Scale and Breakdown of Grading: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 and below.

Engagement (homework, discussion, classwork, etc.)	45%
Tests/Projects/Major Essays	35%
Quizzes/Minor Essays	20%

All students will be permitted to make test corrections. In order to earn points back, a student must review the material and conference with me and demonstrate understanding of the material in question. No more than 10 points can be earned back; therefore, it is imperative that students study and understand the materials by the test date. This process must be initiated within three days of receiving the test grade.

Some classes may be mixed, meaning that Standard and Honor Students will be in the same class. Students enrolled in my Honors classes will be held at higher standards with higher expectations. Honor Students will be expected to critically think in more depth and detail. Assignments will differentiate in length, due dates, and grammar and content expectations.

If your student needs help in my class, I am available most days before or after school. Feel free to speak with me to set up a time.

Course Content

Study Skills

Cursive Writing

Note Taking Skills

Collection 1: The Ancient Middle East

Collection 2: Ancient Greek and Roman Literature

Collection 3: Literature of India, China, and Japan

Collection 4: Literature of Africa and the Middle East

Collection 5: European Literature from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment

Collection 6: European Literature in the Nineteenth Century

Collection 7: Modern and Contemporary World Literature 1900-Present

Power School Parent Assist, My School Website, and Remind 101: Grades and the assignments page on my school website will be updated no later than Friday evenings so that you may check the progress and upcoming assignments of your student. Please keep in mind, essays take longer to grade than other assignments, but I will grade them in a timely manner. To get to my school website go to www.piedmontclassical.com, click on staff and choose my name, Gwen Staunton. I will be using a free phone app called Remind this year. Your student, you, or your whole family can sign up for this app to receive reminders of tests and other upcoming assignments. Remind is a free communication platform built for teachers. This product enables me to safely and efficiently interact with students and parents about important information regarding our class and school events. The communication is one way, so you cannot send texts or emails back to me through Remind. If you need to contact me, please use my school email at gstaunton@piedmontclassical.com. Follow the instructions below to sign up to receive all my class reminders.

- 1.) To receive messages via text, for 4th period class enter number 81010 then text s45678. 5th period class enter number 81010 then enter @s 56789. You may opt-out of any messages at any time by replying “unsubscribe.”
- 2.) Or to receive messages via email, send an email to, s45678@mail.remind.com, or s56789@mail.remind.com; (make sure you use the number corresponding to your period). To unsubscribe, reply with “unsubscribe” in the subject line.

General Classroom Expectations: My English classes are based on reading, discussions, and questioning. Disrespect to me or another student for any reason will not be tolerated. I foster an environment where students feel comfortable to read aloud, discuss, and ask questions. We have a lot of material to master, so everyone must do his/her part to make sure that we all learn in a safe, friendly classroom. *If you become disruptive, hostile, or disrespectful, I will verbally correct your behavior. On the second occurrence, I will contact your parents. On the third occurrence, you will be sent to Mr. Ward or Ms. Wade.*

Cheating or Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You will receive a zero on any assignment where cheating or plagiarism occurred, and your parent or guardian will be contacted.

Bullying will NOT be tolerated! Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Anyone participating in bullying will be referred to Mr. Ward or Ms. Wade. For more information on bullying, visit the link below.

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/definition/#types>

Phones must be on silent and put away while in my class unless otherwise instructed. If I see your phone, I will ask you to give it to me until after class. If your phone becomes an issue for you, I will take your phone and it may be picked up in the office at the end of the day by you or your parent, depending on the offence.

Attendance: Daily attendance is essential to academic success. Students are expected to attend school daily. In the event that a student needs to miss school, the absence may be excused if the absence has 1) been approved in advance or 2) falls into one of the excused absence categories. A parent note is required within three days of the student’s return to school to be excused. Class work and homework that is missed due to an unexcused absence may be made up, but it will be recorded at no more than 50%. Students are responsible for getting all missed work. They are expected to check weebly, ask a peer, or ask me. **Students have 3 school days to turn in missed work.**

Tardies: Students are expected to be in class on time. Excessive tardiness disrupts classroom instruction and exhibits disrespect to me and the other students in class. Three or more tardies to my class in one quarter will be considered excessive. Parents will be notified if tardiness becomes excessive and Mr. Ward or Ms. Wade will be notified. Class time missed due to excessive tardies may need to be made up.

Late Work: I do accept late work up to three days past the original due date for 50% of the grade.

I look forward to teaching and learning with you! I know this is going to be an exciting year!

This syllabus is a tentative outline of this course and may be updated as deemed necessary by the instructor. Make sure you fill out the information sheet for my class and sign the bottom indicating you and your student have read and understand the contents of this syllabus. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email or phone.