

English 9 Course Syllabus
Ms. Holden
Inderkum High School

English 9 is a two-semester, 10-credit course designed to satisfy the Content Standards and High School Credit Requirements as set forth by the California State Department of Education and the Natomas Unified School District. The focus of this class is to prepare students for college and complete their Standards-based education in Language Arts.

The work we do in this class is carefully aligned with Common Core State Standards that were established in 2010 and adopted by the majority of states in our nation. These standards focus on four core areas: reading (fiction and nonfiction), writing, speaking and listening, and language (grammar and writing conventions). You will read a lot, write a lot and participate in a lot of meaningful classroom discussions.

Required supplies:

- One spiral notebook with a minimum of 150 pages (college ruled) Writer's Notebook
- A folder or section in binder to store classroom handouts and work
- Small sticky notes
- Paper, pens, pencils
- Highlighters

Grading

- All assignments must be submitted on time (assignments turned in after work has been collected by the instructor will be considered late). Late work which is skillfully completed within three days of the due date is eligible to receive 70% of the original value; however, any work submitted late will not receive teacher feedback.
- Late work due to illness is eligible for full credit if submitted within one week of the student's return. All late work must be submitted to the "Late Work" basket with a completed "Late Work Submission" form attached. All work must be completed according to Modern Language Association guidelines. The instructor is not responsible to print student work.
- Extra credit work will not be offered. All grades will be assigned -- and recorded in Power School -- in the form of numerical point totals. Not every assignment will be graded.
- Students who are receiving a "D" or "F" grade or those whose behavior is a deterrent to the teaching/learning process may be moved out of the class prior to or at the end of semester.

Formative Work

Formative work evidences the student's early/developing skills and competencies. It is the cycle of practice aimed at meeting curricular objectives. All assignments in this category will be weighted at 40%. (Writer's Notebook, homework, in-class assignments, group/partner work, Socratic Seminars)

Summative Work

Summative work demonstrates knowledge, skill, and mastery. All assignments in this category will be weighted 60%. (Quizzes, Tests, Oral Presentations, Essays)

Texts

Non-fiction literary selections (books and essays), TED Talks, Websites, PBS/Frontline features, Sacramento Library Database selections, Documentary Film, Television News, Art, Advertisements, Speeches, Photos, Up Front Magazine, Newspaper (New York Times, Sacramento Bee, Seattle Times), Radio (NPR), Comics, Memoir, Modern Language Association (MLA) Handbook, plus the following:

Semester One (tentative list)

- A selection of short stories from the Holt Literature and Language Arts, Third Course
- To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
- Excerpts from The Odyssey, Homer
- A variety of teacher-selected poetry
- CSU Expository Reading and Writing Course Unit: Racial Profiling

Semester Two (tentative list)

- “Romeo and Juliet,” Shakespeare
- Animal Farm, George Orwell
- CSU Expository Reading and Writing Course Unit: Fast Food: Who’s To Blame?

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious infraction. The following acts constitute cheating or academic dishonesty: Copying another student’s work or quiz/test answers; failing to give cited credit to authors whose ideas you use in support or your own arguments; borrowed evidence which is incorrectly paraphrased; work which is not your original work which has been partially copied and pasted or used in its entirety; working on an assignment with another student when the guidelines specifically dictate it is to be completed individually; attempts to hack or change grades; ideas which you claim as yours that are not.

The above acts are subject to academic dishonesty charges (the list is not exhaustive). Consequences as spelled out in Inderkum’s Academic Dishonesty policy apply. As well, for the first infraction, the student will receive a zero on the given assignment where cheating occurred and their grade will be lowered one letter grade at the end of the semester. The second infraction may result in failure and/or removal from the class.

Students are required to submit essays/writing assignments to Turnitin.com, a nationally recognized plagiarism detection service.

The Rules --The Big Three

Speak kindly

It’s hard to define, but we all know what this means. Listen to each other. Don’t interrupt. Disagree with ideas and comments, but not individuals. Be considerate. Be nice.

Be in your seat when the bell rings

Most days of the week we will only have 59 minutes of class time. I want us to use all of those minutes productively. When one person is late it is an interruption to the focus and direction

of the whole class.

Follow directions

A purposefully vague rule, it means that I would like you to do what I ask you to do.

Classroom Discipline Procedure

1. Re-Direction
2. Verbal/Nonverbal Warning (and call home)
3. Removal from the classroom to site administrators office/Call Home/Class Suspension
4. Conference with Teacher and Administrator
5. Conference with Parent or Guardian

Leaving during class

Please use your passing time to use the bathroom and get water. On occasion you may need to leave class for personal reasons, but your request should be completed silently. Backpacks should be placed on the hook under your desk, and your grooming materials, hats, and food/drink, and cell phones should be kept in your backpack during class. Water may be out on your desk.

Controversial texts

I have and will continue to carefully select material that I believe will further your education. In my class you may read literature or informational texts that make you uncomfortable. Also, I may ask for your perspective on sensitive subjects. I believe the beauty of literature is found in such materials because they challenge how we see the world. However, it is always your option to decline to participate. I will, without judgment, provide an alternative assignment with similar educational objectives.

Contact Information

Please contact me if you have questions about an assignment. I like students who have questions. I arrive at Inderkum by 7 am and usually leave the building at 4 pm. You may contact me before school, after school, during lunch or during my open period (period 3 10:08-11:12 a.m.). You may also contact me outside of these hours at:

Phone: 916-567-5640 Ext. 6618

Email: cholden@natomas.k12.ca.us

Please sign and keep in this document your binder for future reference. Signatures indicate having read and understood this syllabus.

Student: _____ (print name) Date: _____

Signature: _____

Parent: _____ (print name) Date: _____

Signature: _____