



English 9 A & B

Grand Haven High School



Course Number: S41
Grade Level: 9
Credits : 1 (.5 per semester)
Prerequisite Courses : None

Course Description

All walks of life require that we as humans are able to think deeply and voice our thoughts clearly. It is through the reading and analysis of literature that we develop these close reading and critical thinking skills. It is through the process of writing that we learn to put our thoughts into words that are both powerful and easy to understand. Therefore the focus of this course is writing and the close reading of literature.

Course Objectives

- Literary terminology for fiction/nonfiction/drama/epic poetry
- Close reading & analysis of fiction (short story)
- Close reading & analysis of informational text (articles/essays/etc.)
- Close reading & analysis of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet & Homer's The Odyssey
- Writing: personal narrative, personal essay and literary essays
- Research Process & presentations (MLA format)
- Vocabulary work with morphemes (Roots, Prefixes and Suffixes)

Student Expectations

Students are expected to adhere to the guidelines in the Grand Haven High School student handbook. Additional expectations may apply for individual teachers.

Communication

See Grand Haven High School website for contact information for individual teachers. Individual teachers may also utilize other methods of communication, such as a website, blog or text alerts. Families are also encouraged to check grades with our online system.

Building Behavioral Expectations

TEAM 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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Grading Policy

In-class Work/Homework (30%)

Students will be expected to complete daily assignments in class, as well as actively participate in class discussions. When in-class assignments are given students are expected to utilize the allotted class time. These assignments will be due by the end of the hour (barring extenuating circumstance). Students will also keep a writer's notebook to write in regularly. If absent on a day an entry is written, it is the student's job to make up the missed entry/entries. Writer's notebooks will be submitted periodically throughout the trimester for a grade.

Homework will be given on a regular basis. It will be of reasonable length and done so only to solidify a concept taught in class.

Formal Writings/Unit Tests/Presentations/Quizzes (70%)

Tests are given at the end of all major units. Due dates will be given well in advance, dates will be posted in the classroom, and students will be given elaborate study guides. If absent on the day of a test, be prepared to make up the test upon return. Students will have no more than two days to make up missed tests.

Adequate in class time will ALWAYS be given for papers and presentations; therefore, it is expected that these will be turned in/presented on the due date.

Quizzes will be given periodically throughout units and for vocabulary lessons. All quiz dates will be given in advance. If absent on a quiz day students will need to make up that quiz upon returning to school. Students will have two days to make up any work/quiz missed due to an excused absence.

The combination of these two categories will make up 80% of the semester grade.

Final Exam (20%)

The purpose of a final exam is to demonstrate that students have mastered the skills taught throughout the semester. The best way to assess knowledge is through writing; therefore, the final exam will consist of three major summative pieces. This will include the personal essay, the literary essay, and an informative research presentation.

In addition to the average of these three pieces, students will have a reflective piece and vocabulary component to do on the day of the exam. Due to the nature of the final exam it is imperative that students do each of these assignments as they are given, because they cannot be made up. These assignments are double jeopardy assignments, as they factor into both the semester grade and the final exam grade.

Scope and Sequence

Semester One:

Vocabulary Units

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Personal Narrative Unit
Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet
Research Presentation
Literary Essay

Semester Two:
Vocabulary Units
Personal Essay
Homer's The Odyssey
Research Presentation
Literary Essay

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