



FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

ENGLISH 9 SYLLABUS

Welcome to Foothill High School and ELA 9! This year students will develop their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical-thinking skills as we explore the California Content Standards in English/Language Arts for 9th grade. It's going to be a great year!

REQUIRED MATERIALS FOR CLASS

- Students need a notebook, paper, pen, etc.
- Students need to bring their textbook to class
- Students need to have a positive attitude!

CURRICULUM

The text book that will be used in class is the district adopted, *My Perspectives in English Language Arts*. Each unit of study includes a variety of text sets, fiction, essays, etc., that revolve around a relevant and meaningful essential question. Students will use their text book to analyze literature, cite evidence, and respond critically.

GRADING SCALE

At Foothill High School, all ELA teachers use the same grade weighting scale. All assignments are divided into two categories: "*Practice*" and "*Performance*." Formative assignments, such as

homework, are considered *Practice* and make up 30% of a student's grade. Summative assessments such as tests, quizzes, and essays are considered "*Performance*" and make 70% of a student's grade.

- 90%-100% A Standard Exceeded
- 80%- 89% B Standard Met
- 70%--79% C Standard Nearly Met
- 60%-69% D Standard Not Met
- 50%-59% F Standard Not Met

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Although tempting, it is never a good idea to cheat on a test, plagiarize an essay, or copy someone's homework. *Turnitin.com* is a program all ELA teachers routinely use to check for plagiarism on written assignments. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to administration for referral purposes and entered in the gradebook as a zero

CELL PHONE USAGE

Cell phones are a huge distraction for high school students in the classroom. Students' cell phones are to be silenced and put away during class unless otherwise instructed. If I see a cell phone out, I may ask the student to put their phone on my desk for safekeeping until the end of class. If I see the phone out again, the student will need to see the Vice-Principal to get their phone back after school. The third time the phone is out, Mom or Dad will need to come to school and pick it up from the Vice-Principal.

LATE WORK POLICY

Homework is given in ELA at least three times a week. However, because students' work loads vary from day to day, I allow two days in which to complete a homework assignment. For example, homework assigned on Monday is not due until Wednesday. Because students are given ample time to complete their homework assignments, No Late Work is Accepted once scores have been entered. Students with excused absences will have the same number of days missed to make up the work. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis.

FOOD & DRINK POLICY

I know students like to snack in class, but in order to maintain a clean environment, there can be no food or gum allowed in the classroom unless there is a medical exception. Students are always encouraged to bring water to class.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

My classroom is a safe place where students are encouraged to learn and voice their opinion. Therefore, respect is everything. Not just respect for the teacher, but respect for every student in class. It is important to remember that you can disagree without being disagreeable. Harsh or negative statements directed at an individual or group of individuals—or bullying of any kind—will not be tolerated.

DISTANCE LEARNING

The 2020-21 school year will begin with distance learning. Students need to have access to a home computer/laptop in order to attend class via Zoom, access class materials, and submit assignments. I will be primarily using Aries, Google Classroom, and ZOOM to communicate information to students.

ZOOM EXPECTATIONS:

- On time (tardiness may result in a forfeit of synchronous point)
- Need to clearly see face at all times
- Mic off (unless otherwise instructed)
- Accurate screen name (FIRST and LAST name) that matches name on roster
- Use chat to ask questions
- No visual distractions
- Be ready to speak if called upon
- Have appropriate materials completed and ready to access

I know this is a crazy time to be a student, but I also know that you're going to get through it! So don't worry; just try your best and everything will work out. Welcome to ELA 9!

