



Honors English 9A Syllabus

Blaine High School

Instructor: Ashley Plank

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Welcome to Honors English 9A; This trimester is going to be AWESOME! I am so excited to work with you and explore different pieces of literature, film, and writing. The purpose of this course is to enhance your critical thinking and writing skills while improving your reading, listening, and speaking skills. We will focus on reading fiction, analyzing and responding to literature, speaking and discussion skills, and academic writing. You will be challenged as a reader, writer, communicator, listener, and thinker!

Please do not hesitate to ask questions, email me, or come to me before or after school for any additional help you may need. I have an open door policy and will do all that I can to help you succeed. Come talk with me if you are struggling, confused, or need additional help. I am here to guide, encourage, and assist you in your learning and growth this trimester. I really enjoy teaching and getting to know my students. I will be one of your biggest fans and push you to be the best that you can be; get ready for the FUN! ☺

Honors English 9A Units

Unit 1: Expository Writing

Unit 2: Critically Reading and Responding to Literature

Unit 3: Analyzing Tone in Fiction

Unit 4: Introduction to Socratic Seminar

Unit 5: Reading Efficiency

*The units of this course are interwoven throughout the trimester. We will focus on elements of Units 3-5 as we explore our primary texts. You will engage in writing, critical reading/thinking, and analyzing literature through writing, Socratic Seminar, and other discussions throughout the entire course.

Grading Scale

100-93% = A

92-90% = A-

89-87% = B+

86-83% = B

82-80% = B-

79-77% = C+

76-73% = C

72-70% = C-

69-67% = D+

66-63% = D

62-60% = D-

59% and lower = F

Grading Breakdown

30% Socratic Seminar/Discussions/Presentations

30% Reading & Responding to Literature

20% Academic Writing

20% Reading Efficiency

Honors English 9A Course Content

Anthem by Ayn Rand

Choice Novel: *Coming of Age* fiction

Additional Texts: Short Stories, Poetry,

Nonfiction Articles, Film/TV, Etc.

***Class novels will be checked out individually to students. Each student will be responsible for any damaged or lost materials.**



Recommended Class Materials

English **ONLY** Notebook

English Folder

Writing Utensils (pen and pencil)

Other Suggested Supplies:

Highlighters, Note Cards, Sticky

Notes

Remind/Google Classroom

I utilize Remind (a text/email app) as a means for communicating class reminders and updates with students and parents/guardians outside of class. I also maintain a class website, through Google Classroom, where I post important information about the class, upload all class assignments, and where students can view and complete class assignments. Parents/Guardians are welcome to sign-up as well to keep up with student work.

Remind

Remind.com/login OR Text 8-1010
Class Code/Text Message: @PlankHon9A

Our Class Website

Classroom.Google.Com
HOURLY CLASS CODE: wby1kus
HOURLY CLASS CODE: e7nruqh

Cell Phones/Electronics

In today's society, many students have a cell phone and/or another electronic device. Cell phones and other electronics can be a great classroom tool. They can also be the largest distraction and barrier to learning. I expect that cell phones are put away in a locker, backpack, or pocket during class, **except during designated work times.** I will confiscate an electronic device if it becomes a distraction and return it after class. Should an electronic device become a repeated issue, the device will be handed over to administration and returned when a parent/guardian comes to retrieve the device. We are here to *learn* and *grow* together, and this cannot happen when we are constantly distracted and disconnected because of electronic devices. **Parents/Guardians please be aware of the class schedule and refrain from texting your student while they are in my class.**

Academic Honesty Policy

In this English class, all students are responsible for maintaining academic honesty in all of their work according to guidelines provided in the BHS English Department Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating and plagiarism, even if unintentional, comes with serious consequences. In this class you will be given the instruction and resources needed to maintain your academic honesty. If students cheat or plagiarize, a series of mandatory interventions and a requirement to complete coursework honestly will occur according to the policy.

Tardiness/Truancy

It is very important to be in class on time as we have limited time each day. For this reason, any student not in the classroom when the bell rings will be marked tardy. **Blaine High School has a strict tardy and truancy policy.** It is your responsibility to know and comply with these policies according to the student handbook guidelines.

Absences

Students are responsible for any work missed the day of an absence. Please follow the steps below to assist in getting caught up in class:

1. Ask a fellow classmate or consult Google Classroom for what you missed
2. Check the class crate for handouts, copy notes from a classmate, or find any missing items on Google Classroom
3. If you have done these steps and still have questions, see Mrs. Plank

Late, Missing, and Incomplete Work

It is important that work be done on time and to the best of your ability. Please communicate with me should you fall behind or need additional assistance. **Learn to be a self-advocate** and speak with me **before** an assignment is due. I am much more understanding if you talk with me regarding an assignment before the day it is due. Any assignment handed in over ten class periods from the due date will receive no credit until a conversation with Mrs. Plank has been initiated.

Writing Lab

For students who are struggling or simply want extra help with their writing, the Writing Lab is available in room 157 (located in the Language Arts Resource Center) after school on designated days. English teachers will be available from 2:30-4:00 pm to assist students with any type of writing assignment, regardless of course (e.g. papers from other classes, college entrance essays, ACT help, presentations, speeches, etc.).

Mrs. Plank's Honors English 9A Student and Parent/Guardian Syllabus Sign Page

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Quick Survey:

Is there a computer at home that has reliable internet access? Yes No

If you answered "no" above, is the student able to stay after school to use school resources? Yes No

Does the student own a smart phone or other smart device? Yes No

Do parent(s)/guardian(s), check email often (once a week or more)? Yes No

We have read and understand the syllabus for Mrs. Plank's Honors English 9A class at Blaine High School. We have gone over and understand class logistics and expectations, the Academic Honesty policy, and the expectations for personal devices in Mrs. Plank's classroom.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

***Parents/Guardians, please provide your contact information and preferred method of contact.**

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Phone 1 (Home/Cell): _____

Phone 2 (Home/Cell): _____

Phone 3 (Home/Cell): _____

Preferred Method of Contact (please circle all methods): EMAIL HOME PHONE CELL PHONE

