Ephrata High School
Course Syllabus
English 9
1000

I. Course Description

English 9 is a course designed for ninth graders who need more time to explore reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course emphasizes the same content as Language and Literature 9 but at a pace that is more appropriate for the student. English 9 meets two periods a day, focusing on improving language arts skills. Students read high-interest novels that increase their desire to read independently for knowledge and enjoyment. This added reading exposure is designed to improve student achievement not only in reading but also in writing. Furthermore, the importance of independent reading outside of class is emphasized constantly and required to complete individual selected reading projects.

II. Materials & Equipment

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
Tomorrow, When the War Began by John Marsden
Adventures in Literature, textbook for course
Excerpts from various world cultures literary selections
Personal reading books from home or the media center
Vocabulary Workshop Level C vocabulary program

III. Course Goals & Objectives

Students will:

- make connections between writing, literature, grammar, and vocabulary study throughout the year.
- recognize cross-curricular connections between language arts and world cultures and other content areas.
- research and read about another country's culture in conjunction with World Cultures classes. write a multi-paragraph research paper.
- practice public speaking techniques.
- review and refine their writing skills in single and multi-paragraph essays.
- gain an understanding of the life and times of William Shakespeare.
- identify and apply the elements of dramatic tragedy when reading *Romeo and Juliet.*
- recognize and apply the elements of poetry.
- recognize and apply the elements found in short stories.
- recognize and apply the elements of a novel when reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Tomorrow, When the War Began.*
- increase the amount of time they spend reading.
- read at least one personal reading book every marking period. Students will document their reading and complete selected projects outside of class.

IV. Course Topics

- Writing skills with an emphasis on the writing process, organizational structure, and enhanced style.
- Narrative, informative and persuasive (mostly literary) writing assignments
- Research skills tied to the World Cultures paper—note-taking, parenthetical documentation, outlining, rough drafting, and editing.
- Various World Cultures literary tie-ins
- Short stories
- Poetry
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *Tomorrow, When the War Began*

V. Assignments & Grading

English pre-assessment
Marking period book assignments
Unit tests and quizzes
Vocabulary tests and quizzes
Paragraphs and compositions
Collaborative learning experiences
Oral Presentations
Homework

Class work
Notebook checks
Final Exam