

**Valencia High School**  
**Honor's English 9A Course Orientation**

This course orientation has been prepared to communicate the expectations, course content, course requirements, policies and other information that will give you the opportunity to achieve and have a positive learning experience. Please read it carefully, learn it and share it with your parents. If you do not understand, or have a question about any part of this communication, please see me for clarification.

**COURSE INTRODUCTION**

This honors class is the most accelerated level of curriculum and is intended for the advanced, highly motivated, four-year-university bound student. Students in English 9 Honors will analyze literature for structure, meaning, and social context. They will learn to write in a form that is acceptable for scholarly work. They will also expand their vocabularies and strengthen their command of the English language both in speaking and in writing. Class activities will vary, but the course will revolve around demanding assignments of reading, writing, and discussion.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

The course will begin with analysis writing and an exam on the summer reading requirement. **Great Expectations** – Charles Dickens.

- **To Kill a Mockingbird** is also included in the novel section.
- The first genre of study will be short story including but not limited to the following:  
    **“Most Dangerous Game”** – Richard Connell  
    **“The Scarlet Ibis”** – James Hurst  
    **“The Cask of Amontillado”** – Edgar Allan Poe  
    (This unit will deal with approximately 16 additional short stories.)
- The second genre of study will be a poetry unit including but not limited to the following:  
    **“When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer”** – Walt Whitman  
    **“All Watched Over by Machines of loving Grace”** – Richard Brautigan  
    **“Woman”** – Alice Walker  
    **“The Road Not Taken”** – Robert Frost  
    **“Harlem”** – Langston Hughes
- The third genre of study will be the novel **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee.
- The fourth genre of study will be nonfiction including but not limited to the following:  
    **“Choice: A Tribute to MLK”** – Alice Walker  
    **“Haven’t I Made a Difference”** – James Herriot  
    **“Homeless”** – Anna Quindlen
- The fifth genre will be Greek drama.  
    **“Antigone”** and **“Oedipus the King”**
- The semester will end with the play **“A Doll’s House”** by Henrik Ibsen.

Supplementary materials will be added at the teacher’s discretion.

**TEXTBOOK AND OTHER MATERIALS**

Each student is responsible for covering books and caring for them. Lost or damaged books must be replaced or paid for by the student. Each student is expected to bring appropriate books and materials to class each day.

Textbook:        **My Perspectives and Greek Drama**  
Novel:            **Of Mice and Men.**

**GRADING SYSTEM**

All grades will be computed on an ongoing point basis. Tests, homework, quizzes, essays, group and individual projects will be given a point value based upon their importance and difficulty. The student's grade will be calculated at the end of each five-week period, and a progress report will be issued. In addition, grades will be posted in class to keep track of progress. The following scale is used to determine grades:

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

F = Below 60%

There are also (-) and (+) awarded to grades.

**HOMEWORK POLICY**

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis and, when assigned, is usually due the following day. Homework will be evaluated and points given. Students are also required to spend out-of-class time reading and preparing for essays, projects and exams.

**WRITTEN WORK**

All written work must be neat and legible. Essays must be typed. For regular assignments, loose-leaf paper should be used (not sheets torn from a spiral notebook). Work will be given a ZERO if it is copied or late, has no name on it, is not a legitimate attempt to complete the assignment, or is otherwise unacceptable.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Your attendance is important and directly related to your success in this course. You will need to be on time to class each day. The school tardy and district policy will be followed. If you are absent and return to school on a quiz or test day, you WILL be expected to take the test. If you are absent on a quiz or test day, you may schedule a time to make up the exam after school.

Note: If you are absent from class for disciplinary reasons or if your absence is unexcused, you will NOT be allowed to make up any work that you miss.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

Students will need to keep a notebook with work and assignments. Students are responsible for all compositions, projects, and homework, etc. that is handed back to them. They must keep all returned work until the end of the semester. You are young adults and have reached a level of maturity that requires you to accept full responsibility for your conduct and your treatment/interactions with your peers and instructors.

**CONFERENCE PERIOD:** Sixth Period: 1:15-2:05      Phone: 294-1188, ext. 1925

**Plagiarism:**

**If you plagiarize, your paper will get a zero regardless of all excuses. I will supply you with a plagiarism handout within the first few weeks.**

Every year I encounter plagiarism, and every year I prosecute it. All you have to do is cite sources that you are paraphrasing and cite sources from which you obtain direct quotes. You need to use parenthetical references within your paper, and you need to have a works cited page. Also, you need to use your very own brain and formulate your very own words and ideas in your paper.

Your paper is not just information from other sources. These sources are used to SUPPORT your analysis, not supplant it. In case you are unsure, follow this information from Indiana University Bloomington website:

**Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge. If you use someone else's words or ideas and do not cite the material, you are plagiarizing.**

- a. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, or theories of another person without acknowledgment.
- b. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge indebtedness whenever:
  - 1. Directly quoting another person's actual words, whether oral or written;
  - 2. Using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
  - 3. Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
  - 4. Borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
  - 5. Offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment.

**JUST CITE YOUR MATERIAL!**

Tear off

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Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please read the course orientation for Mr. Zamoski's H English 9A class carefully. After reviewing it, you need to sign the statement below. This signed statement should be returned, and will remain with Mr. Zamoski. I have read the course orientation for Mr. Zamoski's H English 9A class. I will try to follow the rules to the best of my ability or face consequences established by him and the school.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the course orientation for Mr. Zamoski's English 9A class. I will encourage my son/daughter to follow the rules of face the necessary consequences.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_