

*“The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life.”*  
--Plato

*“What is the highest of all goods? . . . The many do not give the same account as the wise.”*  
--Aristotle

*“So Odysseus spoke, and all of them stayed stricken to silence, held in thrall by the story all through the shadowy chambers.”*  
--Homer

Honors English 9 is an advanced class dedicated to the exploration and analysis of literary art. Though the primary curriculum is based upon canonical works of literature, attention is also given to analytical and scholastic forms of interpretation, including the reading of and interaction with professional scholarly works of criticism. While passing attention is given to new historical and post-modern theoretical schools of thought, the primary lenses of interpretation will be close reading and stylistic analysis.

The term will begin with the study of the foundations of Western civilization laid down by the Greeks and the exposition of themes with which our study will be concerned. The remainder of the term we will analyze variations upon those themes as explored by literary artists and scholars through history up to the present day.

The main purpose of this course is to provide students with the foundational analytical reading and writing skills required to continue in the honors and advanced placement programs here at Canyon Crest Academy and necessary for success in college. Strict attention to the proper crafting and execution of student-generated thesis papers will be given, and, as in any advanced English class, students will be expected to go beyond mere plot summary, exploring deeply the philosophical perspectives and implications contained within and conveyed by particular texts.

While independent motivation and drive are required for success in this course, there will be some instances in which students will work collaboratively; however, most major projects and exams will be graded on an individual basis. Emphasis will also be placed upon the formation of habits of self-discipline, in order to insure success in high school, college, and beyond.

Students should be prepared to read and annotate 25-35 pages of literature in preparation for each class period. Class time will be dedicated to discussion of readings and providing guidance and preparation of individual and group projects. A premium is placed upon students' burgeoning ability to discuss literature intelligently, and all students are expected to contribute meaningfully to class discussions of the literary and philosophical material. Quizzes, declamations, timed writings, and major essays may also be expected. Students will be coached to develop goal-setting, time management, and interdisciplinary skills.

Parents and students should recognize that Honors English 9 is an academically rigorous class and that it might not be an appropriate placement for all students, and passing previous classes does not guarantee an A in this class. Grades for this course are determined by the percentage of accumulated points out of the points possible.

**A=100-89.5% B=89.4-79.5% C=79.4-69.5% D=69.4-59.5% F=59.4-0%**

All written assignments are due at the beginning of the period and **no late work is accepted!** If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to get the work assigned and information covered during his or her absence. Students have the total number of days absent plus one to complete and turn in make-up work. After that, make-up work will no longer be accepted. **Students are NOT required to purchase any books for this course, although many students prefer to have their own private copies in which to annotate.** Laptop computers and tablets are not required for the course, although many students find these forms of technology useful to access reading assignments that are online and for researching specific topics during class discussions and lectures.

**Classroom Behavior:** This is an honors level course and students are expected to behave accordingly. Any disrespect towards other students or staff will be dealt with according to policy set forth by San Dieguito Union High School District.

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** Plagiarism is the use of any idea or phrasing of an idea traceable to a single source without proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism is also turning in someone else's work as one's own or supplying one's work to another student for him or her to use. Cheating is copying another student's homework or classwork, quiz, and test answers from other students with or without their permission, and copying information from websites without proper citation. At no point during the course will students be asked to refer to "other" materials than those specifically listed for this course. **Referencing Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes, Monarch Notes, or any written or online source other than those listed on the reading schedule or suggested from class lecture or discussion for this course is considered cheating and will be punished with a zero for the particular assignment and referral to school administration.** Please refer to the Academic Honesty Contract on my website.

Materials required for every class period:

1. Red, blue, and black pens; 1 or more colored hi-liters
2. Text(s) being studied
3. All handouts
4. English binder with dividers
5. Hole-punch

I look forward to a fast-paced and stimulating term in which we will grow as students and people. And while we should always keep before us the words of Heraclitus—"Much learning does not teach understanding"—we should also remember Aristotle's words—"The activity of philosophic wisdom is admittedly the pleasantest of all virtuous activities." I am excited to get started; I hope you are too!

Please sign and return this sheet.

---

Student signature

---

Date

---

Parent signature

---

Date