

# English 9 Syllabus

Piedmont Classical High School, 2017-18

Ms. Fennell

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<http://pchs-fennell.weebly.com>

Room 133

Tutorials: Wednesdays, 3:40-4:30pm

## Description

Welcome to my English 9 class at Piedmont Classical High School! This course will be devoted to the formal development of speaking and writing skills through the use of standard English (grammar). Students will also study various works in World Literature that will coordinate with the times and places students will encounter in World History. These works may include, but are not limited to, *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Frank), *The Good Earth* (Buck), *Things Fall Apart* (Achebe), *Night* (Wiesel), and a Shakespeare play, in addition to reading within our class text. Text selections are subject to change, and students will be notified if this is the case. Students will be challenged and asked questions that require them to refer to what they have read, which will foster critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills.

Students will also practice cursive writing and journaling. Along with these skills, students will be presented with study-skill tools to enhance their learning and to help them be more successful in and out of the classroom. This course will also investigate MLA format and we will take an in-depth look at plagiarism. Writing skills will be practiced through the use of the writing process and through various writing genres and techniques. Ultimately, students will develop and improve their ability to closely read and comprehend literary texts to effectively and insightfully write about what they have read, and to form their own ideas by analyzing and synthesizing the rhetoric and arguments present in our reading.

**Textbook:** *Elements of Literature: World Literature* (Holt)

**Materials Needed:** pens (any color except red), pencils, loose-leaf notebook paper (college rule preferred), 1” to 2” binder (or you may share a binder with another class if necessary), 3-hole pocket folder, colored pencils and/or markers, highlighters, dividers, notecards. Textbooks may be purchased online (optional). Novels may also be purchased on your own (optional/preferred).

## Course Content

Miscellaneous review: Study skills, note taking, vocabulary, cursive

Collection 1: The Ancient Middle East

Collection 2: Ancient Greek and Roman Literature

Collection 3: Literature of India, China, and Japan

Collection 4: Literature of Africa and the Middle East

Collection 5: European Literature from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment

Collection 6: European Literature in the Nineteenth Century

Collection 7: Modern and Contemporary World Literature 1900-Present

## Course Schedule

We will spend this year engaging in the following:

- Note taking and study skill strategies;
- Cursive handwriting instruction;
- Building our vocabulary and word usage;
- Grammar, sentence structure, parts of speech, and punctuation instruction;
- Critically analyzing material in order to write responses to difficult questions;
- Learn to read analytically, critically, and actively, and be able to discuss, both as a class and individually, different elements present in literature in a comprehensive, detailed, and conversational way;
- Reading and discussing short stories, novels, poems, and narratives from World Literature;
- Making individual and group presentations throughout the year;
- Learning to decipher information in order to answer questions and comprehend our reading; and
- Engaging in group discussions and conversations that demonstrate critical thinking, analysis, communication, and a respect not just for the literature, but for each other's ideas, thoughts, opinions, likes

or dislikes, and voice. We will employ common courtesy in the classroom and listen attentively and respectfully to what everyone has to say.

## Additional Information

At the end of English 9, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

- respond to a text by employing personal experiences and critical analysis;
- compose a variety of modes by developing content, employing specific forms, and selecting language appropriate for a particular audience and purpose;
- comprehend language by applying the conventions of Standard English in writing and speaking; and
- evaluate the content, organization, and language use of texts.

## Grading Scale and Breakdown of Grading

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 and below.

Engagement (homework, discussion, participation, classwork, etc.)	50%
Tests/Projects/Major Essays	35%
Quizzes/Minor Essays	15%

Students who need extra help or who are failing the course are encouraged to attend after-school tutorials on Wednesdays from 3:40-4:30pm for extra help or to make up work.

## Late Work Policy

I accept late work up to three days past the original due date for 50% of the grade.

## Expectations in Ms. Fennell's English 9

In addition to following all rules and policies required by Piedmont Classical High School, I also require the following:

### 1. Be prepared:

- Be on time.
- When entering the classroom, do so quietly. After you're seated, begin working on either your warm-up assignment (on board/on your desk), or anything we are currently working on in class. If you are turning in late work, please submit it in the "Late Work" bin at the front of the classroom.
- Bring required and necessary materials with you to each class (required).
- Do not be late. Continual tardies will require me to follow the school's procedures for handling tardies. Information about this is available in the student handbook.
- Please stay in your seat throughout class except to sharpen your pencil, dispose of trash, go to the bathroom (with permission), or to ask the teacher a question.
- We will work until the bell rings. Do not line up at the door before the dismissal bell.

### 2. Be respectful:

- If I am talking, please remain silent until I am finished. This same rule applies to your peers. If a fellow student is participating during a class discussion, do not interrupt them. Wait your turn and either raise your hand so that you can be called on to speak, or speak after your peer has finished talking. We will not talk over each other when having class discussions.
- Disrespect toward the teacher, each other, or a school administrator will not be tolerated.
- Everyone has opinions and thoughts and ideas, and each has the right to be heard and appreciated. Please be respectful of what your peers are saying. You may not always agree with them or understand the significance of what they're saying, but please do not voice these thoughts or opinions without an appropriate counterargument (discussion); if you cannot respond respectfully and thoughtfully, do not respond at all. Everyone has something to say; let's let them say it. You may just learn something from it.
- Be courteous and polite.
- Do not curse in class. Using explicit or vulgar language will result in parent contact and an office referral.
- Keep your hands to yourself and do not touch or damage other people's property, including the school's and the teacher's.
- There is a reason and a benefit to everything we will do in English 9, and if it's not immediately clear, I will be happy to explain it to you. Remember: if you don't know or understand something, ask. This is one of the foundations of learning.

### 3. Be positive:

- Bad attitudes are contagious. Please enter my English 9 classroom with either a good attitude or a suppressed bad attitude. Please do not complain about assignments, activities, reading, or other people.
- Bullying is NOT TOLERATED in Ms. Fennell's class. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-age children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has

the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Anyone participating in bullying will be referred to Mrs. Cobb or Mr. Martin. For more information on bullying, visit <http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/definition/#types>

- Some days can be tough. Let's try to leave our issues at the door, but should you be having a particularly hard day, please let me know.

#### 4. Reminders:

- No cheating, copying, plagiarizing, or sharing or purchasing of assignments. This will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 for the assignment, parent contact, and office referral.
- No phones, iPods, or similar electronic devices allowed in the classroom unless by permission of the teacher for academic purposes only. Phones must be on silent and put away while in my class unless otherwise instructed. If I see your phone, I will ask you to give it to me until after class. If your phone becomes an issue for you, I will take your phone and it may be picked up in the office at the end of the day by you or your parent, depending on the offense. No earbuds or headphones, please.
- No fidget spinners or similar devices of any form allowed in the classroom. Please do not bring these to class.
- Violations of any of these rules will result in appropriate action.

## Consequences

When students choose to break a school or classroom rule, cause a disruption, or be noncompliant (refusing to do what you've been asked to do), they WILL receive consequences, which include the following:

- **Verbal warning (first offense)**
- **Parent contact (second offense)**
- **Administrator referral (third offense)**
- **After-school detention**
- **Removal from the classroom for the period**

## Attendance

- Daily attendance is essential to academic success. Students are expected to attend school daily. In the event that a student needs to miss school, the absence may be excused if the absence has 1) been approved in advance, or,
- 2) falls into one of the excused absence categories. A parent note is required within three days of the student's return to school to be excused. Class work and homework that is missed due to an unexcused absence may be made up, but it will be recorded at no more than 50%. Students are responsible for getting all missed work. They are expected to check Weebly, ask a peer, or ask me. Students have 3 school days to turn in missed work.

## Tardies

- Students are expected to be in class on time. Excessive tardiness disrupts classroom instruction and exhibits disrespect to me and the other students in class. Three or more tardies to my class in one quarter will be considered excessive. Parents will be notified if tardiness becomes excessive and Mrs. Cobb will be notified. Class time missed due to excessive tardies may need to be made up.

## Absentee Procedures

If you are absent, see me or the "Missed Work" folder at the front of the classroom for your missed assignments when you return. You are responsible for making up the work you have missed within one week, including quizzes and tests.

## Restroom Procedure

- Please use the restroom before you come to class. You are only to leave the classroom when there is an emergency. Should you have to go during class, please raise your hand and let me know. I will provide you with a hall pass.
- You may not leave class to use the restroom during the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class.

*This syllabus is a tentative outline of this course and may be updated as deemed necessary by the instructor. Make sure you fill out the information sheet for my class and sign the bottom indicating you and your student have read and understand the contents of this syllabus. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email.*

**RETURN THIS SHEET TO YOUR ENGLISH 9 TEACHER, Ms. Fennell, in  
Room 133.**

Student Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Students and Parents/Guardians,**

After reading and understanding the syllabus and class expectations for this course, please sign below and return this sheet to Ms. Fennell by **Tuesday, September 5, 2017**. If you have any questions or concerns, please make a note below or contact me as soon as possible to discuss.

**\*\*Parents:** The fastest and easiest way to reach me is through email. Please contact me at kfennell@piedmontclassical.com if you ever have a concern about your student. You may also call the school and messages will be returned within 24 hours. Thank you.

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**Parent/Guardian:**

I have read the syllabus and understand the classroom rules, procedures, and grading policies for this course. I understand that the student is required to follow all PCHS and classroom policies and procedures, and that consequences for failure to follow these rules will be as outlined in the syllabus and student handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian **signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian **phone number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other phone number (cell/work)

**Best time** to reach by phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian **email address**

Parent/guardian preferred method of contact: **(Circle one)** email or phone

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**Student:**

I have read all course information and understand my responsibilities in this class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student **signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***My Wish List***

If you'd like to help contribute to my classroom supply of resources, please feel free to bring in any of the following.

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Kleenex

Pens/Pencils

Markers/Colored pencils

Hand sanitizer

Notecards

Notebook paper

Dry erase markers

Glue sticks

Computer/copy paper