

**Course Description: English Pre AP 9 (18 weeks/1 credit)**

This semester will emphasize the development and use of critical thinking skills through in-depth analysis of various literature and genres from around the world. You will be introduced to some of the greatest pieces ever written and be invited to sit in the critics' seat. I will be your guide on this literary journey, helping you sharpen your skills, speak your mind, and find your voice. It is recommended that students registered for this course maintained an A in English 8 or received credit for Honors English 8. This accelerated paced course will help prepare students for Advanced Placement English Language or Advanced Placement English Literature. Pre-AP English 9 provides students with experiences to enrich and expand their acquisition of grammar and communication skills, appreciation of literature and selected classics, organization and presentation of ideas and concepts, and cultivation of a variety of individual writing styles (as stated by the curriculum catalog on the BJHS website).

**Course Objectives**

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage.
- Determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases using a range of strategies.
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students in Pre AP English 9 can expect: daily bellwork activities, daily reading, timed writing on a consistent basis, essay and research writing, novel and literary unit tests, regular vocabulary quizzes, multiple research based activities, projects and a major research paper (the research paper is a major grade and a state curriculum requirement), as well as unit projects both group and individual. Consideration will be given to all requests from students or parents for accommodations for this course, or any school event.

**MY CLASSROOM RULE**

Respect - for me, for yourselves and your classmates

**GRADING POLICY**

Test grades:	70%	essays, tests, projects, etc.
Quizzes, Homework, participation etc.:	30%	vocabulary, reading quizzes, quick writes, etc.
The final exam accounts for 1/5 of the final grade.		<b>Progress reports will be sent home every three weeks.</b>

**Note:** IF ANY GRADE IS GIVEN DURING A STUDENT'S ABSENCE, A "0" WILL BE PLACED IN THE GRADEBOOK UNTIL IT IS MADE UP. THIS IS SCHOOL POLICY.

**GRADES:**

100-90 A	65-69 D
80-89 B	below 65 F
70-79 C	

**TESTS:** Major tests will be announced well in advance. Quizzes can occur any day. **Extra credit opportunities** will be offered at various times throughout the semester, but the only way to ensure success in my class is to keep up on the readings and assignments.

**Absences:**

- Look on Google Classroom for missed work on 'Agenda' slides. These are posted at the beginning of every week and provide an in-depth look at the goals for each class session.
- Get with a classmate for any missed notes and/or instructions.
- If you missed any essays or projects, you must turn those in on the day you return. If you missed a test, students with *EXCUSED* absences will be allowed to make up ALL work within **THREE** days of returning to school. Makeup days for this class are during Patriot Path or arranged individually with me.. You will sign up for the best makeup day earliest to your return to school. This policy is for major tests, not quizzes or daily work. The academic assistant principal must approve exceptions to this policy. An unexcused absence or failure to comply with this policy will result in a zero on the test.

**Late work policy:** Any late work will receive a 25% deduction per day, after 2 days late, a grade of 0 will be given. There will be some assignments during the semester that will NOT be accepted late. If, and when that happens I will make it clear why this is the case. For example, if that homework is a critical component of something we are working on during that day.

**BOB JONES MAKE-UP POLICY**

Make-up tests will be given to a student who has an **excused absence**. The student must make arrangements with the teacher to make-up a test.

**TEXTS AND OTHER REQUIRED READINGS**

*Mirrors and Windows: Connecting with Literature Level IV*  
*Animal Farm* by George Orwell \*(summer reading)  
*To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare  
*The Odyssey* by Homer (excerpt)

Other short stories, poetry and essays by various writers. **NOTE:** Students are expected to **always** have completed the reading assignments for the day they are due. Reading is conducted on students' own time, not class time.

**Required supplies:**

- 3-ring notebook with 5 dividers labeled:
  1. Bell work and Quick writes
  2. Notes and Handouts
  3. Vocabulary
  4. Class Work
- Various colored pens for editing

**Colored highlighters** – in particular, blue, green and yellow are essential for editing exercises  
 Blue or black pen (for writing and test taking – PENCIL IS NOT ACCEPTABLE ON TESTS)  
 College-rule loose-leaf paper (NO SPIRAL EDGES)

**LAPTOPS**

1. Under no circumstances are student laptops to be wired to the network or have print capabilities.
2. No discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will be allowed.
3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops.
4. Laptops will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

**MULTIPLE ASSIGNMENTS WILL REQUIRE THE USE OF A COMPUTER/PRINTER.** We DO allow the use of both at Bob Jones through the library with a small cost for printing. Therefore, failure to turn in typed projects/assignments will result in point deduction.

**Attendance and Discipline Policies**

My classroom attendance and discipline policies are Bob Jones High School policy and can be found in the student handbook.

**Extra Help**

I have an open-door policy. Feel free to schedule a conference at any point in time that you feel you have questions or need assistance. Note: Any student who is at risk of failing this course will be notified at the 9-week grading point.

**18-Week Plan**

<b>18-Week Plan</b>	
<b>Unit 1</b> Weeks 1-3	<b>Summer Reading Text</b> <i>Animal Farm</i> Critical reading and analysis with accompanying literature.
<b>Unit 2</b> Weeks 4-6	<b>Drama and Tragedy</b> <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare An introduction to Shakespeare, blank verse, complex characters and the nature of the tragic hero.
<b>Unit 3</b> Weeks 7-10	<b>Coming of Age</b> <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> Exploring a bildungsroman - a coming of age story, research and literary analysis.
<b>Unit 4</b> Weeks 11-12	<b>Short Stories and Poetry/Group Project</b>
<b>Unit 5</b> Weeks 13-14	<b>The Epic Adventure</b> <i>The Odyssey</i> Parts of Edith Hamilton's <i>Mythology</i> and Homer's <i>The Iliad</i> will also be reviewed
<b>Unit 6</b> Weeks 15-17	<b>Research</b> <b>Independent Research Project (short story, poetry, research, presentation)</b>
<b>Unit 7</b> Weeks 18-19	<b>Nonfiction</b>

**NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the teacher's discretion.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

### Plagiarism Contract: Your Responsibility as a Student

Name \_\_\_\_\_

All too often students are submitting work that is not truly theirs, but are submitting it as such. It is important that you cite all sources used for anything you write, whether that is a research paper, a poetry response or an essay. If you are submitting a paper as your own creation and research, then you have a responsibility to present your **own** findings. Too often, student writers essentially piece together the ideas of others, documented or not, and call it done. This is when plagiarism becomes a real dilemma because without proper citations you are basically committing theft of someone else's work/ideas, which is potentially theft of intellectual property, copyright infringement and cheating.

### How to Avoid Plagiarism: DOCUMENTING YOUR SOURCES

You owe it to your sources, your readers, and yourself to give credit for the ideas you borrow in your research, unless the ideas are common knowledge or widely accepted. Failure to do so will result in **plagiarism**, the act of presenting someone else's ideas as your own. In essence, plagiarism is a form of intellectual thievery carried out, intentionally or unintentionally, by researchers who fail to do their own mind work.

### Three different acts are considered plagiarism:

1. Failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas.
2. Failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks (even if you have parenthetical documentation).
3. Failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words.

### STUDENTS AND PLAGIARISM

As a student you are learning to write a quality paper. You are researching, gathering facts, evaluating and selecting from many ideas, developing and defending a thesis, and honing your writing skills. But one of the most important things you are learning is the most basic element in the history of ideas—the protection of intellectual property.

### PENALTIES FOR PLAGIARISM

Most institutions have very strict penalties for plagiarism that may have far reaching effects on a student's future. Aside from the personal embarrassment, **penalties are as follows:**

1. **Disciplinary referral for cheating**
2. **Teacher detention**
3. **Failing grade for the paper/assignment**
4. **Placed in student's permanent record**
5. **Loss of honor society membership**

### Consequences may also include:

6. Failure of the course.
7. Loss of academic credit.
8. Less than favorable recommendation from teacher and/or school counselor to a university or scholarship committee

What statement has the student made about his or her character? Are these penalties worth the failure to meet rigorous academic and publishing standards?

### TYPES OF PLAGIARISM

Purchase of Papers

Cut and Pasting from Internet sources without proper citation

Paraphrasing without proper citation

Failure to Document Sources

**Sharing homework – written or digital**

I have read and understood this material on plagiarism. I am aware that intentional or unintentional plagiarism will result in a zero for the entirety of the assignment. I will honor the intellectual property of others by citing all material, whether summarized, paraphrased, or quoted, that I use from any outside source.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_