



PRE-AP ENGLISH 9

Mrs. Vinessa Jones

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Course Description:

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 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.
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You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and productive manner. In addition to all the rules and expectations listed in the student handbook, I expect you to have a positive attitude, treat others with respect, practice self-discipline, and demonstrate responsibility. If these conditions are not met, you can expect one-on-one meetings with me, parent/instructor conferencing, and administrative action, if necessary.

Classroom Expectations:

Concerning the use of cell phones and other electronic devices:

Devices should be on silent and kept in your purse, backpack, or pocket during class unless otherwise instructed. You may not place it on your desk. Parents, guardians, and other family members should call the front office in case of emergency.

If you violate this rule, you can expect the following consequences:

- *First offense* – The phone or device will be placed in the “Cell Hotel” at the front of the room. You may pick it up at the end of class.
- *Second offense* – The phone or device will again be placed in the “Cell Hotel” at the front of the room until the end of class and a parent/guardian will be notified.
- *Third offense* – This is defiance and I will notify an administrator.

***Respect the teacher, respect your classmates, respect the classroom, and respect yourself!

Grading Policy:

Major assessments will count 70 percent of your grade. Homework and classwork will account for 30 percent of your grade. Grades will be updated weekly in PowerSchools. Each grading period will consist of nine weeks.



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Make-up Work Policy:

Make-up tests will **only** be given to a student who has an **excused absence**. **The student must make arrangements with the teacher to take a make-up test. Tests may be taken during Patriot Path with prior arrangement from each teacher.** A student only has two chances (the next two Patriot Paths after the absence) to make up a test. All make-up tests will be administered in the designated classroom on the Patriot Path session roster.

Homework/Classwork: Students who are absent for **excused reasons** will be permitted to make up missed work. **It is the student's responsibility to get their work assignments the day upon return to school and complete the assignments according to a time frame determined by the teacher within two weeks of the date of the last absence.** Grades of zero will be assigned for assignments missed because of unexcused absences.

Text and Other Required Reading:

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien (Summer Reading); Short Story unit (diverse stories provided in class/online); *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (additional nonfiction texts provided); *The Odyssey* by Homer; *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Materials and Supplies Needed:

Materials: 3 ring binder, college ruled loose-leaf paper, dividers, post-it notes, pens (black or blue ink) or pencils, and highlighters, personal copies of novels (if possible).

Teacher Wish List: I am floating this year, so my wishlist is simply that students are prepared with the proper materials for class. Perhaps have an extra pen, pencil, or some paper ready to share with a student who may be short one day. Thank you in advance for investing in our students!

Laptops

Concerning laptop utilization: 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

Turnitin Notice

The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively - skills essential to all academic work.

Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student/s originality report and grade accordingly.

Accommodations

Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:

BJHS has a zero tolerance policy for dishonest work and especially plagiarism. There are many different types of cheating: sharing test answers or information/homework with classmates, using visuals or text found on the internet, or paraphrasing ideas without giving the original author credit. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating, and is most prevalent when doing research papers, but all of these forms of



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cheating will be dealt with seriously and will include a meeting with the teacher, the student, and school administration.

18 – WEEK PLAN*

Weeks 1-3	Unit 1 <i>The Hobbit</i> → Rhetoric
Weeks 4-6	Unit 2 Short Story Unit → Literary Analysis
Weeks 7-9	Unit 3 Homer's <i>The Odyssey</i> → Hero's Journey
Weeks 10-11	Unit 4 Research
Weeks 12-14	Unit 5 <i>Just Mercy</i> → A Novel Study
Week 15-17	Unit 6 William Shakespeare's <i>The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet</i> → Drama; Theme Analysis
Week 18	Final Exam Review

***This is a tentative plan and may change at the discretion of the teacher.**

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the syllabus.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Parent/guardian, please provide two ways for me to contact you (email address, phone numbers):

Parent/guardian Email:

Parent/Guardian Phone number:
