

Norwood Public Schools

Grade 9 Honors English Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This course complies with the Massachusetts Standards through the study of literature, grammar, and composition. The course content includes a concentrated study of grammar as it applies to writing and effective communication. Compositional instruction reinforces the five-paragraph essay and enhances skills such as topic development, organization, revision, and proofreading. Students will also explore expressing themselves through writing in various genres. Literature study includes novels, short stories, myths, poetry, drama, and essays. During the school year students will read the three core works and two additional pieces of literature. Students are required to read one summer reading selection chosen by the department. Assessment of all grade nine students includes the department-wide midyear exam, various class assignments, and the grade nine final exam.

Learning Experiences:

Reading

Drawing inferences from a variety of texts
Paraphrasing and summarizing
Analyzing character development
Identifying and analyzing theme

Writing

Practicing the Writing Process (brainstorming ideas, narrowing the topic, gathering evidence, drafting the essay, revising the essay, editing [peer and self], producing a final draft)
Organizing and composing paragraphs and essays

Speaking and Listening

Listening and contributing to class discussions
Defending opinions and ideas with evidence
Listening and responding to classmates' ideas

Content Outline:

Three core texts and at least one additional text; core writing (summary, character/literary analysis, persuasive essay, descriptive writing); literary devices; vocabulary from literature; core grammar

Resources Used:

Prentice Hall Literature (freshmen)

Core Works:

Romeo and Juliet, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Additional works:

The Pearl, *The House on Mango Street*, *Speak*, *Animal Farm*

As of March 20, 2012