English 9 Honors  
Course Syllabus

Tonja Reischl  
Room 511  
reischl@issaquah.wednet.edu  
425.837.4844

I. Course Summary  
Welcome to English 9 Honors! This course will emphasize the development and advancement of skills in writing, reading, speaking, vocabulary, grammar, usage and critical thinking that you will need for further courses in English and humanities. We will study fiction and non-fiction works from a variety of historical eras and places in the world.

II. Class Expectations  
Your success in this class is a direct result of your commitment to it. I will work hard to put together a class that includes a broad spectrum of ideas and resources. I will also work to create purposeful assignments void of busy work. My intent is that you have an opportunity to seriously consider the ideas of literature, how individuals choose to communicate these ideas, and your reaction to the ideas. In return, I expect the following commitments from you:

- Work hard.
- Complete required assignments to the best of your ability.
- Come to class prepared by doing and thinking about your readings.
- Participate in class discussions both by providing comments indicating you are thinking, and by listening to and analyzing what others say.
- Act in a manner befitting an honorable human being. In other words, give others the respect you want for yourself. Manage your comments, come to class on time, and participate in what the class is doing.

III. Materials Needed Everyday

1. Writing Notebook. We’ll work in this every day, and I’ll collect it periodically. It’s important you do not keep materials for other classes in this notebook since you won’t always have access to it. A 3-ring binder works best.

2. The obvious—pen/pencil, paper

3. Your Liberty planner

4. Homework and any assigned readings

A note about textbooks: Instead of hauling a heavy textbook back and forth from school to home each day, we have a class set that stays in the room and you will receive a code to access the textbook materials online. Sometimes you will complete assignments using this online resource. If you do not have reliable access to the internet at home, you can check out a textbook from the main office. Please communicate with me if you need to do this so I can ensure you have the materials you need.

Pet Peeves  
It would be wise to avoid these...

Cell Phones. Holding your phone in your lap where you think I can’t see it and texting your friends is not a good idea. There is no reason why your phone should be out during class, so if
SEE it (in use or not) know that you have just volunteered for 30 quality minutes after school with me.

**Last Minute Homework During Class.** As I come to class prepared, I expect you will do the same. **Assignments worked on during class are considered late.** In addition, there is no time set aside during this class for you to complete your math, science, Spanish, etc. homework. Of course, if you are copying someone else’s work I’ll take it; you can pick it up from the teacher who assigned the work.

**IV. Course Components**

1. **Reading**

   **Major Works.** I design each unit around one or two major works. These include:
   - Independent reading and short stories
     - *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
     - *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee
     - *Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe
     - *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
   - Nonfiction readings

   **Supplemental Readings.** To better understand key ideas, we will also be reading and discussing shorter works of nonfiction, poetry, art, music, and film.

   **Independent Reading.** Each quarter you will complete an independent reading assignment. Guidelines to follow.

   **Writing Notebook.** Our reading in this class will be active and lead to our writing assignments, so many of your comments, questions, clarifications and connections to what we read will be recorded in your notebook.

   **Class Discussions.** There will be many opportunities for you to express your ideas about topics brought up in readings. Some discussions will be formally graded; others will be part of your classroom participation points.

2. **Writing**

   **Writing Notebook.** You will be working daily in your notebook with the goal of evaluating and improving your writing. I will collect these notebooks periodically.

   **Writer’s Workshop.** In-class writings will focus on specific skills and/or specific aspects of a literary work. This is a place to experiment so you are given credit for how you participate, not what you produce.

   **Process Works.** The majority of your writing grade comes from the essays you do for this class. These essays include literary analysis, narrative writing and research, among other forms. Many of your essays may grow out of what you do in the Writer’s Workshop, and credit is given for all steps of the writing process, including revision.

3. **Skills/Quizzes and Tests**

   **Grammar and Vocabulary.** Grammar and vocabulary-building lessons and quizzes happen throughout each unit.

   **Tests and Quizzes.** Reading quizzes may be given any day for the previous night’s reading. Unit assessments will be done in a variety of forms. A comprehensive final is given every semester, usually in the form of a portfolio.

4. **Participation**

   Success requires your engagement. Participation includes coming to class each day prepared, being an active member in individual work and small group and class discussions, seeking help
when you need it, and doing your part to create an environment in which every person feels safe
and is able to learn.

5. Extra Credit
Extra Credit is offered once each semester. You can earn no more than 2% of your final grade
through extra credit. The assignment usually involves attending plays and musicals at Liberty. The
extra credit opportunity is available to every student. I do not create extra credit assignments for
individuals.

V. Course Policies
1. Attendance
• Please refer to your planner for the Liberty High School attendance policy.
• You get one free tardy each semester (use it wisely). After one, we have a chat, and you get
to spend at least 30 minutes of quality time scrubbing my classroom.

2. Absent & Late Work
• If you are sick on the day when an assignment is due AND you have an excused absence:
  o Check the class website BEFORE returning to class.
  o Turn in the assignment that was due the day you were absent on THE DAY YOU
RETURN TO CLASS (otherwise it is late).
  o Make sure you have all necessary materials you need to complete whatever was
assigned during your absence. Remember, you missed at least 90 minutes of
instruction, so this may require you come in before or after school when I can re-
teach the lesson.
  o Turn in the work that was assigned when you were absent the class after your
return (otherwise, it is late).
  o If you are absent the day of a quiz or test, be prepared to take it the day you return.
  o IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU MISSED AND TO REMEMBER
TO TURN IN ALL WORK.
• If you have a school related or prearranged absence:
  o make arrangements with me to take care of your work ahead of time. Remember, if
you are on campus at any time during the day (including extracurricular events) you
are responsible for turning in your work.
• Major assignments are submitted to turnitin.com, and I expect these to be in on time,
regardless of your attendance that day.
• If your assignment is late:
  o You can earn no more than 50% whether the assignment is four minutes or four
weeks late. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
  o Grading periods last 4 ½ weeks. You cannot turn in late work from a previous
grading period.

3. Grading
I use the standard grading scale.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
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<td>0-59%</td>
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Assignments fall into one of three categories:

**Participation.** This category includes assignments, typically at the beginning of a unit, in which you practice a new skill. I give credit for completion and making an honest attempt. These are good opportunities to make mistakes and ask a lot of questions. Assignments include much of the work done in your Writing Notebook, some discussions and introductory work. Assignments are typically worth 5, 10 or 15 points depending upon time required. The purpose of these assignments is to gauge the degree to which you understand a skill and determine how much further practice you need.

**Assignments.** This category includes assignments in which you demonstrate the degree to which you have developed a particular skill or understanding of a particular concept. Assignments include grammar, vocabulary and some reading quizzes as well as short writing assignments, close reading exercises, some discussions and presentations, independent reading, and writing workshop activities. Assignments are typically worth 15, 20 or 25 points. The purpose of these assignments is to demonstrate one or two skills in isolation and/or applied to a narrow concept.

**Culminating.** This category includes assignments that reflect your demonstration of a set of skills we’ve been working on throughout the unit. Culminating assignments usually come at the end of the unit, quarter or semester and include essays, portfolios, performances, tests and some presentations. Assignments are typically worth 50, 75 or 100 points. The purpose of these assignments is to demonstrate your ability to combine a variety of skills and complex concepts to clearly communicate your ideas.

### V. Success & Support

I realize the move from middle school to high school can be difficult. Classes are more challenging and require more work. Grades you receive in courses count towards college or future plans. You’re expected to take more initiative to meet your goals, and you’re the youngest in a student body of over 1200. Your other teachers and I are here to help you with academics as well as adjusting to high school.

Your success in this class is very important to me, and I hope it is to you as well. Since learning requires hard work and sometimes slogging through confusion, I expect and encourage you to seek help. Experience has told me that doing this soon after you think you may need help or clarification is better than putting it off for a few weeks. Here are a few places to start:

- **Come and See Me!** With up to 36 students in a room, I don’t get a lot of individual time with you during class. I really enjoy working with you to develop ideas for an essay, organize your thoughts or talk through what you’re reading. I get to school around 6:45 each morning and am usually here until 4:00 each afternoon. Please drop in!

- **Planner.** Your ASB supplies you with a planner the first week of school so you can stay organized. At the beginning of each class you will see the homework written on the side board. I expect you to write the homework in your planner each day.

- **Website.** My website for this class includes a calendar of daily activities and information about homework. Also, any handouts that are not copyrighted materials will be on the website. No reason not to know what your homework is!

- **Tutoring.** Wednesday mornings Honor Society opens the Liberty Library so students can work on assignments, collaborate on projects or seek tutoring from upper classmen. Check the posters around the school for the time and what date tutoring begins.
VI. Academic Integrity/Honesty Policy:  
Liberty High School has a clear policy, detailed in your student handbook, regarding plagiarism. The highlights are listed below. See your handbook for all of the details.

Plagiarism  
Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is presenting someone else’s ideas or writing as your own either intentionally or unintentionally. In some of your writing for this class, I encourage you to refer to other people's thoughts and writings—as long as you cite them. It must be clear what ideas are your own and what ideas you are drawing from others.

Examples of Plagiarism

1. Copying full essays or portions of essays from another source such as the internet, books, literary aids or other students.
2. Paraphrasing someone’s ideas (from the internet, books, literary aids, other students, or other sources) without giving them credit.
3. Using key words, phrases or concepts from a source without giving credit.

Aiding Plagiarizers  
Giving your work to another person also violates academic integrity, and your consequences will also follow those listed below.

Consequences  
First Offense: You will receive a 0 on the assignment. Your parents may be notified. You will not be eligible for a letter of recommendation written by an English department member.

Second Offense: You will receive an F in the course. Your parents will be notified.

VII. Student Release Information  
The teachers in Liberty’s English Department work hard to examine student work to assess the effectiveness of our teaching strategies and make informed changes. Throughout the year I will make photocopies of some student work (names are removed) to use as models for these discussion. If you or your parents have any questions about this, please let me know.

I’m looking forward to seeing all that you can create this year!
Earn Easy English Points!

Have your parents/guardians read this syllabus, sign it and give me their email address (if they have one). Return this page to me. Put the rest of the syllabus in your notebook. The signed portion is due the next class.

I have read the course syllabus for English 9, including the Academic Integrity/Honesty Policy

Student’s printed name:
________________________________________________________________

Student’s signature:
_________________________________________Date:_______________________

Student’s email:
_______________________________________________________________________

Parent’s printed name:
_________________________________________________________________

Parent’s signature:
__________________________________________Date:_____________________

Parent’s email:
________________________________________________________________________

Parent’s daytime phone (if available during the day):
____________________________________

Please check which of the following you can access at home.

___ computer       ___internet      ___USB flash/travel drive

Please sign and return next class.

This syllabus is also available on the class website under the ‘Staff’ section at www.liberty.issaquah.wednet.edu. Please contact me with questions.