

**Course Title: English 9**  
**Instructor Name: Mrs. Katherine Bonatesta**  
**Email Address: [kbonatesta@efsd.net](mailto:kbonatesta@efsd.net)**  
**SYLLABUS**

**Course Description**

The primary focus of this course will be a literature study designed to foster critical reading and thinking, discussion, and written response. One novel and two dramas are required readings. Various short stories, both fiction and nonfiction will be included. Students are encouraged to think for themselves, build independent study habits, budget their time wisely, and tolerate conflicting ideas and/or opinions. When responding in writing to various elements of the literature, students will be encouraged to establish a clear focus, exhibit clarity and logic in thought development, adhere to grammar rules, and maintain coherent organization while writing in various modes. Across all units of study, students will be active participants in research, reading, writing, speaking, and listening experiences.

**Course Purpose**

Throughout the year, students will write creative and analytical responses to literature. Students will develop critical and analytical thinking skills through oral and written expression related to the readings in the course. MLA style will be discussed, presented, and required for all writings within the various units of the course.

**Course Outline**

Unit 1: Stories of Transition - Explores nonfiction personal narratives called anecdotes.

Unit 2: Local and Global Persuasion – Breaks down several examples of persuasive writing, showing what elements create an argument on a local and global level.

Unit 3: New Perspectives - Focuses on point of view and the idea that narratives can change depending on the storyteller's perspective. The primary text will be *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Unit 4: Social Injustice - Choose a play from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century that explores the concept of the American Dream from different angles.

Unit 5: Duality and Conflict – Discuss the idea of two opposing concepts existing in the same place. The primary text will be *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Course Textbook and Required Materials**

Holt Elements of Literature Textbook (classroom use only)  
Novels, as needed  
1 notebook large enough for the entire year  
1 2-pocket folder for handouts  
Pencil/pen  
iPad

**Course Technologies and Writing Information**

- While efforts have been made to transition nearly all elements of class onto the iPad and the Canvas infrastructure system, English 10 will still have a paper component. Students are required to have a notebook and folder in order to keep the paper component organized.
- Students are expected to take notes in class. Some students may wish to take notes in a more traditional manner, such as in a notebook or may want to take notes on the iPad. Whichever method students prefer, they are expected to come to class with all necessary materials and be ready to participate.

#### Technology Usage Policy

- **YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE ON YOUR CELL PHONE OR HAVE HEADPHONES IN MY CLASS UNLESS TECHNOLOGY IS PERMITTED AT THE TIME. CELL PHONES MUST BE IN YOUR BOOK BAGS OR PLACED ON THE WINDOWSILL OF MY ROOM, BUT YOU MAY NOT HAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS UNTIL PERMITTED.**
  - **IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN MY CLASSROOM, YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE YOUR PHONE PUT AWAY IN ORDER TO DIRECT ALL ATTENTION TO THE MATERIAL BEING DISCUSSED.**
- \*YOU WILL BE WRITTEN UP IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW THIS POLICY\***

#### Classroom Behavior Expectations

**Food/Drink: There is **no** food or drink permitted in my room unless you have a medical excuse. If it is hot outside, I will allow you to bring in a water bottle, but please ask first.**

The classroom is a **PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT** thus students should act as such:

- **BE SAFE-** Maintain personal space, follow directions, and listen to staff.
- **BE RESPECTFUL-** Use appropriate language, be on time, and be polite.
- **BE ACCOUNTABLE-** Be prepared, do not lie, and do not cheat.
- **BE VICTORIOUS-** Do your best work and celebrate your own and others' academic success.
- **BE ENTHUSIASTIC-** Have a positive attitude and take ownership of your learning.

- ⇒ **No electronic devices unless otherwise directed.**
- ⇒ **Work hard.**
- ⇒ **Be responsible for yourself.**
- ⇒ **Be respectful and kind at all times.**

#### Late Work and Makeup Work Policy

- All assignments must be completed on time. Most of the time you will be given class time to begin reading or working on homework assignments; therefore, late assignments will be accepted, but for half credit. Large-scale assignments will be accepted a day late for half credit. If you come to school late, leave early, or attend a field trip, you are in the building and are expected to deliver any work due that day to me **on that day**.
- Making up missed work is **YOUR** responsibility. If you're absent, you need to see me about making up missed assignments. As a general rule, you have the number of days you missed to make up the work. For instance, if you missed two days of school, you have two days to make up the work. If you missed three days, you have three days to make it up.

#### English Department Plagiarism Policy

- Accurately cite all sources.
  - Proofread your work to assure accuracy.
  - Accurately represent your sources.
  - Include a list of works cited for all compositions.
  - Read all assigned readings to assure accuracy.
  - Do not download a composition from the Internet.
  - Do not copy another person's work.
  - Do not make up quotes that are not in the text you have read.
  - Do not give your work to others.
  - Do not write a paper for one course and turn the same paper in for another course.
- If you are found plagiarizing work or cheating in any way, you and any other student (s) involved will receive a zero on the assignment, project, or test. Texting or using any electronic devices during tests or quizzes will also result in a zero. You will NOT have the opportunity to make up or redo the work. This is pursuant to the district's policy.***

#### Extra Help or Questions?

**I am here to help you. Do not hesitate to e-mail me if you have a question. I check my e-mail regularly. If you are struggling, please come see me for extra help. I am available for help before and after school, unless I have another mandatory activity (faculty meeting etc.).**

**The earlier you seek help, the easier it is for me to help you!**

*Let's have a fantastic year of learning together! ☺*

**\*\* Instructor reserves the right to expedite the discipline policy depending on the severity of the problem or to adhere to Student Handbook.**

**\*\*\* The syllabus is subject to change, and the instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus when deemed necessary.**