

# English I: Literature and Composition

Ms. Beraza: [rberaza@pcsd.us](mailto:rberaza@pcsd.us)

Period 6

Room 209

Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/pcsd.us/ms-beraza/home>

## Course Description:

During Ninth Grade English we will read many examples of excellent literature and informational text. We will study the major types literature: short stories, novels, poetry, drama, epic poetry, and literary non-fiction. We will discuss and write about the works we read, we will memorize poems and write speeches, and we will deliver presentations about what we have learned. Ninth Grade English will prepare you for your future high school and college English classes as you become proficient in focused literary study.

## Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Become proficient in analyzing **short stories** using literary concepts (characterization, setting, plot elements, figurative language, theme, symbolism, sensory imagery, style, point of view, etc.)
- Become proficient in analyzing **novels** (historical context impact, major/minor characters and characterization techniques, multiple plot relationships, point of view impact, etc.)
- Become proficient in analyzing **poems** (poetry forms & characteristics, rhyme, meter, poetic devices, how theme is revealed, etc.)
- Become proficient in analyzing **dramas** (elements of drama, plot structure, dramatic techniques, character development, comedy, tragedy, irony, etc.)
- Become proficient in analyzing **epic poetry** (elements of epic poetry, characteristics of a hero, relationship to myths, historical context, themes, etc.)
- Become proficient in analyzing **literary non-fiction** (types of essays, rhetorical strategies in speeches, characteristics of memoirs, characteristics of autobiographies, etc.)
- Continue to hone skills in **writing essays**: argumentative and informative
- Continue to hone skills in **writing narratives**
- Continue to hone skills in **oral presentations** and **group discussions**
- Continue to expand **vocabulary & grammatical** knowledge and application

The English/Language Arts standards of the course are summarized in the Grades 9-10 Alaska Standards found at:

[http://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/akstandards\\_elaandmath\\_080812.pdf](http://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/akstandards_elaandmath_080812.pdf)

## Grading Policy:

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 25 % | Participation (discussion/activities/note-taking/vocabulary/DGP/binders)     |
| 25 % | Essays (short in-class and longer take-home)                                 |
| 15 % | Presentations/Projects (posters, multimedia, research-based)                 |
| 20 % | Quizzes (periodic, some are scheduled and some will be unannounced/surprise) |
| 15 % | Midterm (calculated in semester 1)   |
| 15 % | Final (calculated in semester 2)   |

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## Materials Needed:

For this course, in addition to the district provided laptop, you will need:

- A **notebook** ([Research has proven](#) that handwriting notes is better)
- **Writing utensils** (it is your job as a student to come prepared)
- \*Index cards (optional for vocabulary)
- A **folder or binder** dedicated to this course (this **will be checked**) You will need to keep all handouts, including Classical Roots and DGP as well as texts
- Assigned book or text
- **Independent reading book** (SSR is every Friday and **will be graded**)



*"A sage traveling all day is never far from the supplies in his cart and, however spectacular the views, he remains calm and composed."*

— Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching

## Attendance/Missed Class Policy:

The bulk of work and learning for this course will occur in class, so regular [attendance is the key to success](#)! If you are going to be traveling for a school sponsored activity it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check in with me **before your departure** to ensure you stay on track for success. CHECK CANVAS frequently and email me if you have any questions about assignments. **If you are absent due to an excused absence, such as illness, check in with me as soon as you return to get caught up on assignments you missed.**

Unexcused absences will result in zeros for missed assignments.

## Late work policy:

I expect assignments to be turned in on time. Doing so demonstrates that you take pride in your work and have mastered effective time management, which is one of the cornerstones of success. Assignments will be marked down by 20% if received on the same day that they are due. They will be reduced by 50% after the due date. **It is your responsibility to contact me before the due date if you are struggling with an assignment.**

## Your Responsibilities In This Class?

In this class we have much work to do and no time for discipline issues. In addition to the school rules, students must follow these classroom guidelines:

### **1. Be respectful:**

- a. be polite to others
- b. listen well
- c. follow directions
- d. discuss respectfully

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- e. no non-computer electronics (phone, etc.)

## ***2. Be responsible:***

- a. come to class prepared
- b. meet deadlines
- c. be organized: save ALL notes in your binder
- d. be honest: do your own work; cheating and plagiarism on schoolwork will result in a zero on the assignment, notification of parents/guardians, and further disciplinary action.
- e. ask for help when you need it
- f. actively participate in class discussions
- g. have a good attitude and make the most of your own learning

## ***3. Be safe:***

- a. be aware of your own space
- b. stay in assigned area
- c. use materials appropriately

### **Contact me:**

Email: [rberaza@pcsd.us](mailto:rberaza@pcsd.us)

Feel free to email me if you have questions or concerns related to this course. I check my email frequently and will respond as soon as I can. **You can also feel free to speak to me in person. I will be in my room (209) after school until 3:45 every day.**