**English 9 CP
2017-2018 Academic Year Syllabus**

**Course Information**

**Instructor:** Mr. Fuller

**Classroom:** C105
**Office Hours:** After school by appointment
**Office Telephone:** 860-345-8541 ext. 3105
**E-mail:** rfuller@rsd17.org

**Course Description**

This class is a broad survey course of English literature and composition. As you enter the high school, it is imperative that you are introduced to essential concepts of English literature and are aided in developing lifelong study skills. I will do everything in my power to ensure that by June you are ready to meet the demands of your sophomore teachers.

As in all other English classes, we will do a lot of reading and writing. One cannot underestimate the importance of reading literature as well as clear, proficient writing skills. Grammar and mechanics will also be studied in this class as one cannot write well if he/she does not understand the essential rules of our language. On top of all this, we will have a focus on improving our speaking ability through vocabulary, class presentations, and Socratic Seminars.

We will cover a broad range of literature and poetry during our year together. It is my hope that during this year, you will find a new appreciation for reading and writing. I am constantly amazed at literature’s ability to transcend space and time. By opening the pages of a book, you can instantly be taken back thousands of years and into the mind of the characters and author of a particular book. In an *Atlantic* article, Joe Fassler says that, “Fiction, literature, all art, connects us to our past, explains our present, and predicts our future.” I look forward to cultivating an appreciation for our ability to read and analyze literature with you this year!

If you ever are having trouble with any of the material in this class, you should immediately come and see me for help. I want to make this very clear: **I am here to *help* and to make sure that you have an amazing year!**

*Mr. Fuller*

**Course Materials**

You will be expected to always have the following materials with you when you walk into the classroom:

1) Book: For each unit you will be given a text. It is expected that you bring the actual text with you to every class. Students are financially liable for the replacement of damaged or lost materials.

2) Notebook: You will be given a FREE notebook by me (how nice, I know!). You will need this notebook for each class. On top of note taking, you will have many quick writes and “DO NOWs” that require you to have quick access to paper.

3) Writing Instrument: Pen, pencil, fountain pen, ballpoint pen, roller ball pen, fiber tip, gel ink - you get the point. You will not be successful in this class if you don’t have a writing instrument to put your thoughts on paper.

4) Homework Organizer: You need to have a designated organizer/student planner to write down homework and when assignments are due. Luckily, each student is given a planner by H-K at the start of the year.

**Grading Structure**

45%: Major Assignments (Tests / Papers)

35%:  Quizzes, Writing Assignments, Projects

20%: Homework, Classwork, Participation

Classwork and homework will be checked on a daily basis. However, not every classwork/homework assignment will be put into PowerSchool. Students are reminded that some quizzes will be given unannounced to ensure that you are properly prepared for class.

Students should prepare properly for evaluations (tests, quizzes, etc.) the “first time around,” as they will NOT be afforded the opportunity of a “make-up” evaluation simply because they were initially unprepared.

Essays and formal writing assignments will be evaluated for grammar, form, and content. Students may re-write an essay provided they have made an appointment with the teacher to discuss that essay. Students have three (3) school days to complete such a “re-write” after the writing conference with the teacher has taken place. The overall grade for a re-written essay will be determined by averaging the essay’s original grade with any/all subsequent re-write grades.

All assignments (other than Homework/Classwork/Participation) will be assessed on a typical 0 to 100% scale. Below is the grading scale for homework/classwork.

NO EXTRA CREDIT IS OFFERED FOR THIS CLASS.

**Homework/Classwork Grade Rubric Grade Numerical Value Grade Explanation**

√++ = 95 The student’s work is exemplary.

√+ = 90 The student’s work is well done.

√ = 80 The student’s work is missing some parts.

√ - = 70 The student’s work needs more effort put in.

0 = 0 The student’s work is incomplete or nonexistent.

Any student concerned with his or her grade is certainly welcome to discuss the matter with me either during lunch/activity or after school. Class time cannot be used to discuss individual grades. Homework not submitted on its due date will result in a “zero” grade for that individual. However, the student can turn in work the next day for a 75, or at any time during the quarter for a 50 (I’m trying to help you keep those zeroes out of PowerSchool!).

**Late work/Hard copies/Plagiarism**

Assignments must be turned in as a hard copy on the due date. Late work will be penalized **A FULL LETTER GRADE PER DAY LATE**. You will always be given enough time to fully complete assignments to the best of your ability. Use your time wisely! Plan your work and work your plan.

Alternatives to hard copy (flash drive, e-mail) are not a substitute for a hard copy.  Please do not ask me to print out your work or ask if you can email me your assignments. It is your responsibility to have your work ready when class begins. If a paper is due at the start of class, and it is not printed out and on your desk when the bell rings, the late penalty will be enforced. I understand printer troubles happen, but communicate those problems with me beforehand.

Students are reminded of the school policy on plagiarism. It goes without saying that plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable.

**Classroom Expectations**

I look forward to developing a safe, comfortable, fun classroom environment where learning and respect is abundant. In order to accomplish this task, I have the following expectations for our class:

**Come to each class with your best attitude, concentration, and effort.** There are three things that every person has total control over - their attitude, concentration, and effort. I will always strive to give you my absolute best for each and every class, and I expect the same in return. Come to class with a terrific attitude, concentration and effort, and all of us will have a great year.

**Be fair and respectful to all.** Student actions that interfere with my teaching or the learning of others will NOT be tolerated. It is expected that each student is fair and respectful to all others in the classroom. Bullying of any kind is absolutely unacceptable. A John Wooden quote is pertinent to this topic: "Consider the rights of others before your own feelings and the feelings of others before your own rights.” On top of treating everyone in the classroom respectfully, it is also expected that you treat our room with respect. Pick up after yourself and keep our room clean. While students will be allowed to have drinks in the classroom, food is not permitted.

Individuals who interfere with our classroom learning environment and/or fail to complete assigned tasks will be issued either “Lunch/Activity” or “After-school” detentions. Lunch detention will be for a whole lunch period (40 minutes). The student will eat their lunch, complete work, and spend quality time with me. After-school detention runs from 2:20-3pm and the student will complete assigned work during this time. Work/extra-curricular activities are not valid reasons to miss detention. Proper behavior and personal responsibility are the best ways to avoid having to forfeit your free time either during lunch or after school! *Bottom line: I will always show you respect, and I expect that you show respect back to me and your classmates, at all times.*

**Be on time and put in your time.** In school or in life, when you show up to something on time, it shows that you care. It is expected that you are in your seat, with your notebook and writing utensil out, when the bell rings. If you need to use the bathroom or leave the classroom, you need to sign-out and get a pass from me. Please try your best to use the bathroom or get a drink BEFORE class begins to reduce interruptions during class time.  If you put your time and effort into this class, or anything you do, you will be rewarded. Always give your best and be careful not to fall into the trap of thinking you’re giving your best when you really aren’t. As John Wooden once said, "If you don't have time to do it right the first time, when will you have time to do it over?"

**Use your technology appropriately.** I am a huge fan of technology - particularly my iPhone and laptop. I would like our classroom to be technologically-friendly, as long as we can handle it. Unless given permission by me, phones should be off your desk and put away. Students who are caught using or “secretly using” their phone, when not permitted, will have their phone taken away for the remainder of the class. Unless it is for school purposes, pictures/selfies of any kind are unacceptable in the classroom.

**Students will be accountable.** If you’re absent, it’s your responsibility to talk with a classmate about what you missed and come see me to collect the work that you missed. I will not seek you out to make up work. Also, please don’t ask me if we did something while you were out. You will always do something in this class. I have a basket in our classroom where I put extra copies of everything we do in class; this is the place to look for missed work. Ask me how you can make it up, and I will be glad to help.

As I stated earlier, I am here to help you and I genuinely care about every one of my students. I really do want you to be successful. With that being said, if you ever feel like you need help with something or would like to talk about a way to make your classroom experience even better, don’t hesitate to come see me. I will do everything I can to help you have a positive experience in this class.

\*Student and parent must sign and return the next page!

By signing below, I am indicating that I have read and understood Mr. Fuller’s class contract.

STUDENT NAME (PRINTED):

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STUDENT SIGNATURE:

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DATE:

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PARENT SIGNATURE:

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DATE:

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