**Course Syllabus for ELA 9B**

**Andover High School**

**2017-2018**



**Contact Information**

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**Introduction**

Welcome to ELA 9B! I am excited to be your teacher this trimester, and I look forward to exploring the important concepts of critical literacy with you. I am here to challenge you and encourage you to think outside the box; please be prepared to work hard and do your best. If you do those things, I guarantee you will succeed.

This syllabus is designed to give you helpful information about many different aspects of the course, including contact information, policies and procedures, grading, and required assignments. **Please keep this syllabus for reference throughout the trimester.**

**Course Description/Overview**

English 9 is a required two term course. The second trimester (ELA9B) focuses on critical reading, writing, and speaking skills; argumentation is a key focus. Embedded throughout this part of the course is APA research skills. Homework (practice) should be expected.

**Materials to Bring to Class Everyday**

* Pen/pencil
* Notebook
* Folder
* Independent Reading book (may be personal copy OR checked out from the IMC)
* Completed assignments, when applicable
* Your BRAIN, WORK ETHIC, and a POSITIVE ATTITUDE

**Policies and Procedures**

In this class, you are expected to participate and challenge yourself in every aspect of the course. Engagement in a variety of activities and assignments is expected. You are also expected to be on time and prepared for class each and every day; this means you need to be in your assigned seat when the bell rings, with all of your materials (including assignments), ready to learn.

**Grading**

The English 9 teaching team embraces a standards-based mindset when grading student achievement. That is, we believe that students’ grades should reflect what they know and what they can do. Essentially, students will earn grades based on their level of mastery of the MN state standards related to Argumentation, Academic Writing/Speaking, and Media Literacy.

**Students will receive feedback on their formative work using a holistic score (based on a rubric). They will receive a score of 5,4,3,2,1, or 0 indicating their progress towards mastery. Please note: formative work is PRACTICE. This work is critical, as it allows us to provide feedback to the student prior to assessments. Due to the importance of this type of work in the learning process, we are looking for (and assessing) the QUALITY of work rather than mere completion.**

Students will be given ample opportunity to demonstrate their learning. Re-takes on all exams ARE PERMITTED as long as students adhere to the re-take policy expectations (please see below). **Please note: no re-takes are allowed on the district CSA. Also, all re-takes must be completed PRIOR to the last week of the trimester.**

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| --- | --- |
| Grading Scale | Grading Categories |
| Letter grades are assigned based upon percentage of points accumulated:  90-100% A  80-89% B  70-79% C  60-69% D  59% or lower F | Final trimester grades will be comprised of the following weighted categories:  Writing Summatives 40%  Reading Summatives 30%  Speaking (including CSA) 10%  Research Process (including Course Final) 10%  Formative Assessments (Practice) 10% |

**Late Work**

In high school, there should be little or no late work. The purpose of homework is to practice essential skills that we are learning in class. Essentially, homework is practice for our exams. Students are expected to keep up with daily work and to meet deadlines. Please do not make a habit of missing assignments.

**Retaking Exams**

Students are allowed to retake exams when:

1. they meet with me before or after school BRIEFLY to discuss the exam and create a plan for re-learning;
2. they complete ALL related formative work (i.e., HOMEWORK/PRACTICE) that was assigned prior to that exam;
3. they complete the agreed upon re-learning task(s).

**Absent Work**

It is your responsibility to find out the work that you missed. You are allowed two days for each day absent to complete the work before it is considered late. Students who are absent on the day of a summative assessment must complete it within one week.

**Tardy Policy**

Instructor will notify student and/or parent of student tardiness. After the third tardy, after-school detention will be assigned by administration.

**Plagiarism/Cheating**

Plagiarism is a serious offense and has consequences including an office referral. It involves copying words or ideas without giving credit to the source. It also includes copying another student’s work. Plagiarized work will not be accepted.

**Final Note**

All policies, procedures and protocols are subject to review and change, as needed. Please remember that these expectations have been established to provide a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. After all, that’s why we’re here!

In closing, I would once again like to welcome you to ELA9A! This trimester will be challenging, but I look forward to working with you as you continue to develop your critical literacy skills. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the term, please do not hesitate to talk with me. I am here before and after school, and I am here to help!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the syllabus for this course and I understand the information contained therein. I acknowledge that I am responsible for knowing the information set forth in the document, including contact information, policies and procedures, grading, and required assignments. I also agree to keep this syllabus for reference throughout the term.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_