

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade English  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

2009-2010

Instructor: David Weidner

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Room: 461

Phone: (480)-882-3540 ext. 1807

E-Mail: dweidner@jocombs.k12.az.us

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**Description:**

10<sup>th</sup> grade English is a comprehensive course designed to help students develop strong reading, writing, and interpersonal skills. Emphasis is placed on literary analysis, research skills, persuasive and functional writing, oral and visual presentations, critical reading skills, and the history of British literature.

**Organization:**

- Quarter 1: Literary Focus—The Anglo-Saxons and Medieval Periods  
Novels: *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Sir Gawain & The Green Knight*  
Films: *Erik the Viking*
- Quarter 2: Literary Focus—English Renaissance and Restoration  
Essays: *Rape of the Lock*, *A Modest Proposal*  
Play: *The Taming of the Shrew*  
Film: *Tootsie*
- Quarter 3: Literary Focus – Romanticism & The Victorians  
Novels: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Selected Poems*
- Quarter 4: Literary Focus—Modern and Contemporary Literature  
Novel: *Animal Farm*  
Film: *Blood and Honor*

The course covers all types of writing, with emphasis on persuasive and functional writing, as well as research techniques. Students will also learn how to annotate, improve their presentation skills, and explore techniques utilized in interviewing, technology, and web-based searches.

The high school will be on a block schedule. To take full advantage of this, our class will participate in weekly Literature circles and Writer's Workshops. Each quarter, students will read a different novel or play and meet regularly with a small group to discuss the literature. Students will also participate regularly in the workshops, where they will hone their writing skills.

**Textbooks:**

1. *Elements of Literature: British Literature* McDougal Littell.
2. *The Writer's Craft* McDougal Littell
3. There is a \$5 course fee for 10 English, which covers the purchase of two paperback novels (which students keep. Novels will be handed out as the year progresses.)

**Assessment and Evaluation:**

1. Vocabulary Quizzes
2. Grammar/Sentence Structure Tests
3. Short essay responses
4. Group Projects/Presentations
5. Individual Projects/Presentations
6. Participation
7. Homework assignments
8. In-class assignment

**Grading Policy:**

Grades are determined each quarter by following a standard percentage breakdown as follows:

90-100%	A- to A+
80-89%	B- to B+
70-79%	C- to C+
60-69%	D- to D+
59% & Below	F

**Make-up and Late Work:**

Late work will be accepted for verified absences. Students will be given as many days to complete required missing work as days unattended. Students are responsible to communicate the need for the missing assignments.

**Classroom Behavioral Expectations:**

1. Show respect to the teacher, your classmates, and yourself at all times
2. Participate in all discussions actively and in a civil manner
3. Take responsibility for turning in assignments on time
4. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum in class (bottled water is okay)
5. Excellent attendance is necessary for your academic success.
6. Electronic devices are not allowed in class. If I see it, I will confiscate it.
7. Behavior that affects the learning of other students will NOT be tolerated.

**Classroom Tardy Policy:**

You must arrive to class on time or with an excused pass. You are expected to be in your seat before the bell rings. Students are responsible for having assigned homework, a notebook, a pen, and other classroom materials ready. Tardies will result in the following consequences:

- 1 tardy – Warning
- 2 tardies – Teacher-student conference after class and a call home
- 3 tardies – Lunch detention and a call home
- 4 tardies – Automatic referral to office and parent-teacher conference

**Materials:**

- A black/blue ink pen
- 8 ½ X 11 loose-leaf lined paper college rule
- A spiral notebook (daily journal)
- The required textbooks and novels

**Cheating Policy:**

Cheating will not be tolerated! Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically receive “0” for the entire assignment and a phone call home. These consequences will affect all individuals involved.

**Rewards/Consequences:**

Students who do their best to achieve academic success within my classroom, demonstrate good citizenship, honesty, responsibility, and/or respect will find themselves receiving a number of various rewards for their behavior or grades, (including special privileges, surprise rewards, positive comments on Character Always cards, and positive homebound messages)

Students that continuously disrupt the class, consistently show no effort in learning the material presented, or display aggressive insubordinate behavior, run the risk of receiving one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning
- Teacher Conference after class
- Challenge Chair assignment
- Lunch detention with teacher-assigned citizenship project
- Parent-Teacher conference
- Referral and/or possible suspension

**Teacher’s Notes:**

With the inclusion of Coyote Skills this year, students will be given many opportunities to seek me out with questions about the literary texts or writing exercises. I will make it my responsibility to offer my time to the best of my ability to each and every one of my students.

I am attaching an Assignment Matrix to this letter electronically, so parents have an opportunity to see the entire list of assigned work for the year. It is an excel spreadsheet that allows the parents the ability to monitor their child’s progress and plug in the given grade for each assignment as we progress.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at the above number or email address. I welcome the opportunity to speak to every one of the parents of my students. Please assist me in moving your child’s education forward this year.

By signing below, you are stating that you have read these rules in their entirety and understand (and will obey) the rules as outlined within this document. This is a binding contract for the school year 2009/2010.

Warmest regards,

Mr. David Weidner  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade English

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Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date