



Course Outline and Student Expectations (Disclosure Statement)



Course: Language Arts 9
Room: S48
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Instructor: Mrs. Catherine Carney
Availability M: 8:00-8:25 A.M., 1:45-3:30 P.M.
Availability T, W, F: 8:00-8:25 A.M., 3:00-3:30 P.M.
Phone: 462-2452 ex. 248

E-mail is my preferred form of communication. This allows me to think and have time for a response, rather than to be put on the spot in the middle of a class.

Course Description:

This course develops thinking, reading, writing, research, inquiry, and oral presentation skills.

Course Objectives:

Students will be capable of inferring, interpreting, analyzing, and appreciating the language. Students will be able to use library and reference materials. Students will be able to compose clear, coherent, and purposeful essays with multiple paragraphs. Students will follow be instructed following the guidelines set forth in the Utah Secondary Language Arts Core which relies on the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association.

Student Indicators of Learning and Accomplishment:

Students are assessed on information presented in class in several different formats, such as in-class writing assignments, essays, quizzes, and oral responses. Instruction is altered to accommodate the information gathered through assessment.

Instructional Materials and Internet Access:

The textbooks used are *The Reader's Choice: Fourth Level* and *Writing and Grammar: Gold Level*. These textbooks are supplemented with novels, handouts, movies and documentaries, the library, the Internet, and any other information that seems pertinent.

Students are required to have access to the Internet at the high school. Internet permission forms may be acquired in the media center.

Grade System and Class Performance Requirements:

Students must hand in each assignment on the day it is due. Late assignments will be accepted only in extraordinary circumstances ("extraordinary" to be determined by Mrs. Carney).

An "A" means a student is performing at a level of excellence. A "C" means a student is doing the minimum amount and/or quality of work to pass. The following is the grade scale:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|---------------|----|---------------|----|---------------|----|-------------|
| A | 100% - 94.5% | B+ | 89.4% - 86.5% | B- | 83.4% - 79.5% | C | 76.4% - 73.5% | D+ | 69.4 - 66.5 |
| A- | 94.4% - 89.5% | B | 86.4% - 83.5% | C+ | 79.4% - 76.5% | C- | 73.4% - 69.5% | D | 66.4 - 64.5 |

Below 64.5% students will receive an "F" (an "I" may be given for extenuating circumstances)

Persuasive Writing Exam:

In January all Language Arts students will participate in a mandatory persuasive writing exam. The score of this exam is weighted at 15% of a student's second semester grade. There will be opportunities for remediation through "MyAccess" and the National Society Tutors.

Quizzes and Tests:

Quizzes may not be made up unless there are extenuating circumstances. If students are aware that they may be absent from class for school-related business, a quiz may be taken before the absence either before or after school, but not during class time. A missed test must be made up within three days of the student's return to class; a student who wishes to make up a test must schedule an appointment before or after school. A test may not be made up if the absence is unexcused.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Please refer to the student planner pages 15 – 24 for the state, district, and high school policy. This is the policy that will be followed. Note: three tardys will be considered an absence. After 5 minutes a student is considered absent from class.

A: Preparation:

At the end of each two-week period, preparation points are given for each day a student is in class working. Working means coming to class prepared to learn, listening to a lecture, reading an assignment, writing an assignment, or engaging in activities that pertain to the class.

Students receive 20 points for preparation per day. These points are there for the student to keep or lose. A student tardy to class will lose 25 points. A student will also lose points for not bringing daily class materials, including a personal writing tool.

Preparation points are lost if students are absent from class unless they are on approved school business. All absences must be cleared with the attendance office within two weeks of the absence whether it is school business or sickness. After two weeks any "X" left on the computer attendance will be considered an unexcused absence.

B: Class Behavior:

Students are expected to be respectful to their teachers and classmates. This includes being where they are instructed to be, paying attention to class materials and presentations, refraining from chit-chat, and using language appropriate to a professional setting.

A student who habitually disrupts the learning of other students may be asked to leave the class permanently and find an alternative method of earning Language Arts 9 credit.

C: Make-up Work:

If work that was assigned prior to an excused absence is due during the absence, then it is due upon the student's return. Work that was assigned during an excused absence is due within a time equal to the amount of time missed from class. For example, if a student is absent for two days, and the absence is excused, he has two days to do the assignments he missed. Any work not done within the time limit is considered late and may not be accepted. For any extended absences, arrangements should be made between the student, the parents, and the teacher.

Many in-class writing assignments may not be made up. These assignments accompany many minutes of instruction that simply cannot be repeated. Assignments that can be made up with a limited amount of instruction can usually, but not always, be found at the following website: www.ccarney.org.

These policies are amended at the end of each grading period. A student who is absent during the last two days of a quarter should make arrangements to have his/her assignments brought to the teacher before grades are due. Grades are typically due on the next school day following the end of the quarter. At the end of the school year, grades are typically due within two days of school ending.

Reading and Novels:

Students are expected to read at least 20 minutes each day at home. Studies have shown that daily reading increases students' vocabulary and comprehension skills. It is also important that a student have a book to read every day in class. Students will be taken to the school media center once a month

for a book-talk on various books, genres, and authors. There are also over 1000 books in the classroom; they may be checked out at anytime.

Students are required to read at least two novels each quarter over and above daily assignments. Students will do a reading response assignment for each novel read a quarter. Students are encouraged to read as many different genres (fantasy, horror, etc.) as possible. Students are expected to have read eight books by the end of the school year. Books read as a class may count toward the total of eight books. A student may read as many books as he or she chooses, but students may not read all eight books the first semester and expect them to count for the entire year. A reading log is to be kept in the student's folder at all times. This log will be periodically checked.

From time to time, students will engage in Silent Sustained Reading (SSR). Students who talk, do other homework, sleep, or simply fail to read during these times will not receive SSR points. These points may not be made up. Students who are absent on either school-related business or an excused absence may make-up SSR points by reading at home and filling out a form with a parent's signature.

Weighted Grades:

Each assignment is placed into a category, which is weighted. The following is an example of the weighted categories of assignments and the percent each carries toward the total. These weighted percentages and categories may change as needed.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|---------------|----|--------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Notebooks | 5% | Miscellaneous | 5% | Homework | 10% | Reading Responses/Logs | 10% |
| Group Work | 5% | Rough Drafts | 5% | Preparation Points | 10% | In-class writing | 15% |
| SSR | 5% | Grammar Punk | 5% | Quizzes & Tests | 10% | Final Drafts | 15% |

Basic Rules:

- Food, drinks, and hats are not permitted in the classroom
- Students are to be in their seats when the bell rings.
- Students are not permitted to surf the Internet for personal use, play games, or check e-mail during class time.
- Students are expected to take care of their personal business (e.g. bathroom visits and phone calls) during passing periods. Students must turn off and put away all cell phones, iPods, and other personal electronic devices before entering the classroom.
- An electronic device may be confiscated if it becomes a nuisance.
 - ◆ First offense: the confiscated item may be picked up at the end of class.
 - ◆ Second offense: the confiscated item may be picked up at the end of the school day.
 - ◆ Third offense: the confiscated item is taken to the office.
 - ◆ Fourth offense: the student loses the item and his or her grade changes to an "F" until a parent, student, teacher conference is held to discuss the situation.
- **Students must be prepared for every class: this means bringing a black or blue pen, a pencil, a notebook, a reading book, the NS planner, and any textbook(s) currently being used in class.**

Once the late bell has rung, a student will not be excused from class for personal business.

Disclosure Statements are due by _____. After this date, students will have their grade overwritten to an "F" until a signed disclosure statement is handed in to Mrs. Carney.

A quiz on the disclosure statement and NS planner information will be given on _____. This quiz must be passed with an 80% score. Quiz retakes will be given before and after school until September 8 and grades will not be affected. After that time, students will have their grade overwritten to an "F" until 80% has been reached on the quiz; it is a student's responsibility to arrange a time to retake the quiz.