Course Title: English 1

Course #: 1211-1212

Course Description: English 1 is a yearlong required course for college preparatory ninth grade students. Students read literary pieces from genres of literature including the novel, short stories, poetry, mythology, non-fiction, and drama in addition to studying literary techniques and terms. Students continue to build a foundation of basic vocabulary skills and grammar skills for effective oral and written communication as well as preparation for taking standardized tests (such as the PSAT, the ACT and the SAT). Students also focus on study skills with emphasis on active reading strategies and basic academic research skills. Students practice creative and expository writing, with an emphasis on the claim, data, and warrant elements in expository paragraphs. In the second semester, students use these writing skills to produce multi-paragraph, thesis-driven expository essays.

UC/CSU Approval: “b” approved as English 1

Grade Level: 9

Estimated Homework Per Week: 2-3 hours, depending on the type of assignments and student’s reading/writing stamina

Prerequisite: HSPT (Placement determined by the reading comprehension and English scores on the HSPT exam and recommendations.)

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:

Course Grade Categories:
- Academic/Analytical Writing - 25%
- Tasks: Homework and Classwork - 30%
- Assessments/Projects - 30%
- Final Exam - 15%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Semester 1

Unit 1: Active Reading and Analytical Writing Orientation
An orientation to active reading skills and analytical writing. Students will practice active reading strategies, writing skills (Claim-Data-Warrant Style, Paragraph Format) and technology application.

Objectives:
- How do active reading skills aid in comprehending texts?
- How is the analytical paragraph similar and different from other paragraph writing (CDW style)?
- How is MLA formatting applied to a published assignment?

Major Assessments:
- Literature Analysis Paragraph (CDW style)

Unit 2: Short Stories
A close study of the short story genre, including but not limited to: Plot Structure, Literary Devices, and Theme. Students will practice active reading strategies, writing skills (Analytical Paragraph) and technology application.

Objectives:
- How do authors present universal themes/life lessons in their short stories? How are the same themes/ideas applicable to our own lives?
- How do short stories help us to understand other genres?
- How do the characters' positive and negative personality traits (eg. hubris, loyalty) prove useful to us in understanding human nature as a whole?

Major Assessments:
- Process Literature Analysis Paragraph(s) (CDW style)
- Unit Exam

Unit 3: Novel #1
A close study of the fictional novel genre, including but not limited to: Plot structure, literary devices, themes, historical context, and an author's tone and style. Students will practice active reading strategies, writing skills and technology application.

Objectives:
- How does an author use literary devices to develop characters, setting, plot/conflict?
- What is the purpose of certain literary devices (metaphor, symbol, imagery, irony, etc.)?
- What effect does the author's style have on the readers?
- What concepts/themes are developed throughout the novel?
- What concepts/themes are universal and connect to previous units of study (Short Story)? What do we understand about human nature when we study universal themes?
- How is an author's worldview/viewpoint seen in the novel?

Major Assessments:
Semester 2

Unit 4: Non-Fiction Novel
Students independently select and read a nonfiction novel. Students are taught about the different forms of nonfiction and also learn how to tailor their active reading strategies to analyze nonfiction works.

Objectives:
- How do nonfiction pieces contribute to the understanding of other literary genres?
- How can we analyze nonfiction writing in order to gain information from it?

Major Assessment:
- Keynote Project

Unit 5: Poetry
Students read and analyze a plethora of poetic works, spanning odes, lyrical, and traditional forms. Students also have opportunities to write their own poetry, reinforcing their knowledge of poetic elements that they will gain in this unit.

Objectives:
- How does a poet use literary and poetic devices to develop a theme in a poem?
- How is the poet's world view/viewpoint seen in the poem?

Major Assessments:
- Expository/Synthesis Essay
- Unit Exam

Unit 6: Mythology/Odyssey
A study of prominent figures, morals, conflicts, and philosophies that exist in Greek Mythology. Students will discover the origin of mythological characters and discuss the role of the hero’s journey in literature.

Objectives:
- How does Greek/Roman mythology affect aspects of modern life (ie: beliefs, values, economics, politics, culture, society, etc.)?
- In what way does Greek/Roman mythology provide for a deeper understanding of human nature?
- What are the positive and negative qualities of a hero (e.g., courage, loyalty, hubris)? How can the model of an epic hero apply to our own lives?

Major Assessments:
- Persuasive Essay
- Unit Exam (Reading and Writing Assessment)

Unit 7: Drama/Tragedy
A close study of the themes, symbols, and writing techniques inherent in Shakespearean plays as well as an analysis of the plot structure and motifs present in tragic drama.

Objectives:
- How does the structure of a drama differ from short stories, novels and poetry? How do these changes affect our understanding of the "story"?
- How does Shakespeare develop the characters, setting, plot/conflict when he can only use dialogue in a drama?
- What universal themes does Shakespeare illustrate in his play?

Major Assessments:
- iMovie Project

Spring Final:
- On-Demand/Timed Literature Analysis Writing
- Summative Multiple Choice/Matching/Sequencing Exam