

English 9 Syllabus

Southwest Minnesota Christian High School

The mission of Southwest Minnesota Christian High School is to challenge students to grow in knowing, loving, and serving God and others.

Instructor

Mr. Wendel Buys

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507-227-5709 (cell, before 10 p.m.)

Texts (may include some or all of the following)

Elements of Literature, Holt, Rhinehart and Winston

Writing and Grammar, Prentice Hall

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Call of the Wild by Jack London

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

The Miracle Worker by William Gibson

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

The Odyssey by Homer (excerpts/summaries)

Other Materials

blue/black and red pens

notebook

binder or folders

Course Description

Language is part of God's created order. How we use it matters! It was created perfect, but because of the fall we must now work to redeem it from brokenness. We will seek to work redemptively as we read works from a variety of periods and philosophies. We will also write a variety of essays, employing the writing process to seek to express truth clearly. Clear expression will require work in grammar and mechanics.

Course Goals

- Students will evaluate and enjoy many genres of literature employing strategies learned.
- Students will develop their vocabulary and grammar skills through memorization and exercises.
- Students will develop their skills of writing by working through the writing process.

Course Content

In English 9, students will develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and grammar.

Reading: Reading skills will be developed through the use of quality literature found in the text and supplemental material. Vocabulary lists will be distributed and tested regularly. Students

will be expected to select books on their own for free reading. Opportunity will also arise for oral reading.

Writing: Students will be writing regularly in response to the literature as well as in response to writing prompts. Students will learn the six traits of writing and how to evaluate their own writing using those traits. Students will journal in response to prompts and in response to their free reading. The five paragraph essay structure will be taught and numerous essays will be completed throughout the year.

Speaking: Students are expected to express themselves during class discussions, but throughout the year specific opportunity will be provided to address the entire class via presentations.

Grammar: Students will study grammar in conjunction with the literature and writing, but supplemental lessons will also occur as needed. A basic understanding of the parts of speech, the parts of a sentence, sentence structure, and conventions (grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling) is necessary to fulfill the Christian's mandate to communicate and write effectively. Daily Oral Language will be another tool used to advance this understanding.

Expectations

- Be here. Do your best to be here for every class. If you must be gone, make sure you talk with me before your scheduled absence. If you have an unexpected absence, take care of any missed work as soon as you return.
- Be prepared. Make sure that you get all assignments completed before class begins on the due date. Class begins when the tardy bell rings. That means that you will have everything ready and be prepared to work as soon as the bell rings.
- Be kind. Practice Christian brotherhood. Treat your classmates with the respect and courtesy they deserve as fellow image bearers. This requires adherence to school-wide rules and common sense.
- Be careful. Always follow the expectations for any assignment, including the expectations for formatting. To do your best work consistently you will need to avoid procrastinating. The added benefit of working ahead is that you may avoid a crisis should something come up that gets in the way of completing your work in a timely manner. Also, treat supplies and property with respect.
- Be honest. We will discuss academic integrity in one of our first sessions and revisit in conjunction with research. It is not optional.

Grading

Grading will be based on daily work (participation, worksheets, assignments, etc.), quizzes, and tests. Assignments are expected to be done on time and completely. You know your own aptitude and if you have done work to the best of your ability. Work that is substandard may be returned for a second attempt with a grade reduction.

Grading Scale:

A 96-100	B+ 89-91	C+ 80-82	D+ 71-73	F 0-64
A- 92-95	B 88-86	C 77-89	D 68-70	
	B- 83-85	C- 74-76	D- 65-67	

Category Weights:

- 30% Assessments (tests, quizzes)
- 30% Projects (papers, presentations, other projects)
- 20% Daily Work (worksheets, journals, DOL, etc.)
- 10% Participation
- 10% Exam

Growth

As we seek to know, love, and serve God and others better and better each day, let's support one another in that effort. Let's make this a year of growth, the kind that can't always be measured by the grade on an individual assignment or assessment or even on the report card. Let's make this a year of growth that can only be truly measured by God.

"Wherever you are, be all there." Jim Elliot