

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
Freshman Academic English 2018
Mrs. Jessica Cawley
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Room 121

Course Overview:

Freshman English is a full-year course that will introduce and build upon the fundamentals and techniques of expository research-based writing. Basic structural grammar and logical thought will be stressed. The study of new vocabulary is incorporated throughout the course. Freshman English is designed to introduce the short story, the novel, drama, poetry, and non-fiction through the reading of significant writings of authors. Although other shorter units will be incorporated, a few major units of this course will focus on proper research and essay development, author's craft, the development of tragedy, and American Civil Rights.

Although all 9th grade Common Core standards will be addressed, emphasis will be placed upon:

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1](#) Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.2](#) Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.9](#) Analyze seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (e.g., Washington's Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, Roosevelt's Four Freedoms speech, King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"), including how they address related themes and concepts.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2b](#) Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.1a](#) Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.2](#) Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Selected Readings (various short stories, memoirs, poems, and song lyrics will also be introduced):

The Chocolate War *To Kill a Mockingbird* *Raisin in the Sun* *A Separate Peace* *Oedipus Rex*
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian *Of Mice and Men* *Romeo and Juliet* *The Hate U Give*

Material Required:

-2-3 inch binder pens loose-leaf paper (sticky notes)
 (Students will have their own supplies each day; I will not give them out.)

Class/Behavior Expectations:

- * Do not interrupt my teaching.
- * Do not interrupt others' learning.

Teacher detentions will be given for minor infractions; office referrals for major issues, yet there should be no problems if these rules are followed.

Grading Policy:

Tests, Final Essays, Projects (Presentations) 40% Quizzes and in-class Essays 30%
 Class Participation and Group Work 10% Homework 15% Binder 5%

Classroom Policies:

- Late homework will be accepted one day past the due date for the first semester. During the second semester, late homework will receive a zero, but I will collect it and check it for accuracy. Students will have an extra day to complete homework if absent from school. It is the student's responsibility to hand in the work or show it to me at a convenient time (not before or during class).
- If absent, the student must call a friend to ask for the homework assignment and to ask for any notes given that day. Students are responsible for their missed work.
- Quizzes and tests will be taken on the day that they are assigned, for there will be advanced warning. A student will only be excused from taking an exam on the day it is planned if he has had a lengthy absence. If absent on the day of the exam, the student may be asked to take it the next day or after school. If it is not taken within a reasonable time (normally one class week), the grade will become a zero.
- Class participation is essential. Students should be able to exhibit oral knowledge of homework and reading.
- Projects and essays are expected on time. Ten points will be deducted from the final project grade for every day the work is late.
- The use of technology (iPods, phones, laptops) is prohibited in this classroom unless directed by the instructor. All technology should be kept in lockers or backpacks. If used without permission, the technology will be confiscated and kept until the end of the period. Multiple offenses will result in teacher detentions and/or office blue slips.
- Extra Credit Projects are not policy and will not be given to boost grade averages.

Homework Grades Explanation:

Check plus, plus is a 100 Check plus is a 90 Check is an 80 Check minus is a 70
Sloppy, incomplete, or careless work will not receive credit.

Wheeler High School Academic Expectations met by this course:

- Analysis
- **Literacy**
- Communication
- Collaboration

Binder Set-Up (5% of the quarterly grade)

The English Binder must include each of the following sections:

- class notes
- vocabulary
- journal
- handouts
- corrected papers

Each of these sections must be neat, complete, and organized. All binders will be collected at the end of the 1st marking period. Near the end of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th marking periods, I will randomly select two students to resubmit their binders for a new check. These students must have their binders with them, ready to turn-in on that day, or ten points will be deducted from their final binder grade. All other students will keep the grade that they had received from the last quarter. Any student who wishes to submit his binder for a new quarter check may do so, even if his name has not been chosen, but he must have it with him in class on that day. I will not accept resubmitted binders late.

Assessment:

- **organization and neatness (papers are easily accessible and properly organized)**
- **completeness (all quarter work is included)**
- **all quizzes and testes have been corrected by the student**
- **typed self-evaluation is included (This will be explained further towards the end of the semester.)**

Teacher Availability for Extra Help:

After school extra help will be given by appointment. Students will be encouraged to use study halls or break time for extra-help if they cannot stay after school.

Looking forward to a great year. Feel free to contact me at the school by e-mail with any questions or comments.

Thank you,

Mrs. Jessica Cawley

Academic Freshman English

Please complete the information on this page. Then sign and return.

Student Section:

I, _____, have read this class syllabus and promise to adhere to it.

Student Comments:

Student's Signature _____

Guardian Section:

I, _____, the parent/guardian of _____ have read the class syllabus and understand all classroom policies. I will encourage my child to do the best he/she can this school year.

Parent/ Guardian Signature _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Best Time to be reached _____

Comments: