



Course Description & Objectives:

The Advanced English 1 curriculum develops students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as specified within the Common Core State Standards for grade 9 (<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>). Over the course of this school year, students will work in a variety of ways toward mastery of these standards. Students will read complex texts; write critically, analytically, and creatively; respectfully engage in collaborative academic discussions; develop and refine language skills; engage creatively with course texts and concepts; and so much more. This class is intended to promote, develop, and support students' *critical thinking* and *communication* skills, fostering their growth into discerning, autonomous, and creative citizens of our society. This course will be rigorous, fast-paced and challenging, as well as exciting and invigorating; students will read and write *a lot*, and will in turn become successful scholars.

Expectations of an Advanced English 1 Student:

An advanced student is someone who:

- Is academically curious and self-motivated
- Desires an accelerated pace and a deeper exploration of the course content
- Manages difficult course material and engages in higher-level critical thinking
- Is accountable for a variety of advanced readings, analysis of complex ideas, and different types of assessments
- Has excellent time management, organizational, and study skills
- Is prepared to participate in sophisticated reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities; work independently; and handle a rigorous workload

Course Texts:

Fall Semester:

- *Farewell to Manzanar* - Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
- *Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck
- *The House on Mango Street* - Sandra Cisneros
- *Animal Farm* - George Orwell
- Selected short stories and nonfiction, including selections from the 9th grade *Collections* textbook
- Independent Reading (choice book)

Spring Semester:

- *Great Expectations* – Charles Dickens
- Greek Mythology & *The Odyssey*
- *Romeo & Juliet* – William Shakespeare
- Selected nonfiction and poetry, including selections from the 9th grade *Collections* textbook
- Independent Reading (choice book)

Materials:

Students should bring the following materials to class each day:

- Notebook/Journal (composition book, spiral bound notebook, etc. Any notebook with plenty of lined paper for daily writing exercises is acceptable)
- Binder with folders/dividers (storing notes/handouts, returned work, etc.)
- Pencils, pens, and highlighters
- Current course text(s) and Independent Reading book

If any student does not have access to these materials, please see me for assistance in obtaining them.

Attendance & Late Work:

Students should come to class on time every day and be seated by the time the bell rings. In the case of excused absences, students have two days from the time of their return to make up their work without penalty. ****If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due and was previously aware of the due date, the assignment is still due either on that day (if the work is to be submitted online) or on the day the student returns to school.****

Late work will be accepted for partial credit. For two days after an assignment is due, late submissions will receive up to 75% credit. After this point, late submissions will receive up to 50% credit. If an assignment is more than five days late, the student must see me to discuss whether or not the work will receive any credit.

Independent Reading:

Over the course of the year, students will read books of their own selection during designated times in class and at home. This component of class is intended to promote students' development as self-motivated readers, scholars, and critical thinkers; students are also *highly encouraged* to select books suited to their own taste, and to continuously develop a love of reading. Students should bring their independent reading book to class every day.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined by the number of points students earn. All assignments will be categorized as follows:

- Writing
- Tests & Quizzes
- Projects & Presentations
- Practice Mastery Work
- Class Participation

I follow a standard grading scale, outlined as follows:

A+ 97-100%	A 93-96%	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%
B- 80-82%	C+ 77=79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%	D+ 67-69%
D 63-66%	D 60-62%	F 59% and below		

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's language or ideas in your work and passing it off as your own. If a student commits plagiarism, their work will be given an F grade (0 points), parents/guardians will be contacted, and they may be given a referral. ***Do not copy anyone's work, do not give your work to anyone else, and always cite your sources.*** Don't plagiarize; it's not worth it.

Generative AI technology (ChatGPT, etc) is now universally accessible online and, though very useful in some ways, can easily be abused in the classroom and utilized by students for plagiarism purposes. As a class, we will discuss Generative AI and its unethical/unacceptable use at school, as well as how it can be used responsibly as a tool. Students and parents/caregivers should clearly understand that any idea or text taken directly from a Generative AI source will constitute plagiarism and is unacceptable. **Parents/caregivers, please take some time to discuss the value of creating and submitting original work, as well as the responsible use of online/digital tools, with your student at your convenience. Thank you!**

Technology:

Much of the work students do in class will be completed and submitted electronically. We will be routinely using various technological resources in class, including but not limited to:

- Chromebooks (provided in class - not assigned to be taken home)
- Google Classroom
- Turnitin.com
- PHS Library Databases
- Noredink.com, etc.

We will be creating and/or updating accounts for each of these platforms within the first weeks of school. Students will be responsible for keeping track of their own login information.

****Parents/caregivers and students, please detach, sign, and return the following page indicating that you have read and understood the information contained within this syllabus****

