

English 9 Course Syllabus

Last Updated: 14 August 2025

Class Location: Room 210

Instructor: Mr. McNally

BJU Press Course Description

Using the reading process approach that questions students before, during, and after reading, *Fundamentals of Literature* instead teaches students not just to comprehend what they're reading but also to analyze and reflect on it. This anthology of literary works includes classics such as "The Most Dangerous Game" and modern works such as *The Radium Girls*. Students will compare texts, evaluate an author's purposes, and compare what they read to a biblical worldview framework as they engage with these selections.

Close Reading

With the reading process approach, students are encouraged to understand classic literature and informational text on a deeper level.

Effective Questioning

Each reading starts with a Big Question that ties in with a biblical worldview shaping objective. During Reading questions appear in the margins for consideration while reading the text, and After Reading questions guide students in evaluating what they read.

Scaffolded Instruction

Fundamentals of Literature carefully scaffolds material to guide students through analysis and evaluation, while providing differentiated instruction for students who benefit from a different approach.

Biblical Evaluation

Throughout the text, students are encouraged to analyze literary works in light of biblical teaching. The anthology also includes Scripture, hymnology, and classic texts that help develop and refine a biblical worldview.

Textbooks and Other Materials

All course readings are in the BJU Press *Fundamentals of Literature* textbook or otherwise provided as needed. Grammar exercises and writing assignments are in the BJU Press *Writing*

and *Grammar 19* textbook, and vocabulary lists and exercises are in the Sadlier vocabulary textbook. Information about assignments, assessments, exams, and other resources is available on FACTS.

Grades

Assessment	Weight
Homework	25%
Quizzes	30%
Tests	45%
Semester Exam	20% of entire semester grade

Gradebook Abbreviations

A = Absent

The assignment was missed due to absence. These assignments are not calculated and have no effect on your average. However, having fewer assignments in a grade category means that the other assignments in that category have a bigger effect on your average, so it is generally best to make up absent work, even if the teacher is not requiring you to do so. Assignments marked absent in the gradebook are relatively uncommon and are typically only small homework assignments, not tests, quizzes, or projects.

E = Excused

The assignment was excused. These assignments are not calculated and have no effect on your average. Assignments are usually only excused for extenuating circumstances or conditions, such as an injury preventing participation in PE or an extended illness preventing participation in a group assignment. As with absent work, having fewer assignments in a category means the individual weights of the remaining graded assignments in that category are mathematically more significant, so it is generally best to make up excused work if possible. Assignments are typically only excused if they are relatively small or the student truly cannot be reasonably expected to complete them.

I = Incomplete

The assignment was not completed and can no longer be given any credit, even if it were turned in. Incomplete assignments are calculated as 0s. You may still turn in an assignment that has been marked as incomplete and request corrections or feedback from the teacher, but it will still not be given any credit.

M = Missing

The assignment was not turned in by the due date, but it can still be turned in late and earn credit with late penalties. These assignments are calculated as 0s until they are turned in and either marked as pending or given a numerical grade.

P = Pending

The assignment has been turned in and acknowledged by the teacher, but has not yet been graded. These assignments are not calculated and have no effect on your average until they are changed to a numerical grade.

Papers

Most writing assignments are taken from the *Writing and Grammar 9* textbook. An assignment's presence in the textbook is not necessarily a guarantee that it will be assigned, but all the necessary examples and instructions for each assignment are in the textbook.

Significant writing assignments that may be assigned this year as time and schedules allow include but are not limited to:

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Persuasive Essay	Informative Article
Opinion Piece	Memoir
Narrative Essay	Comparison-Contrast Presentation
Oral History	Film Script
	Research Paper

Late Penalties

Assignments submitted after the due date without a legitimate and verifiable excuse will be penalized at a rate of ten points per class day.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding actions such as cheating, plagiarizing, and providing false information. Any student found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will face disciplinary action and a failing grade for the assignment.

Electronics Policy

Use of electronics, such as laptops and cell phones, is only allowed when the teacher specifically says so for course-related purposes only. Any use of electronics that disrupts the class or distracts other students is not permitted and may result in disciplinary action.

Communication

All course-related communication will be done through email or FACTS.

Accommodations

If you require any accommodations for an inability to submit assignments electronically, a disability, or other legitimate reasons, please have your parents contact the school office or instructor as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements.