

English 9B Syllabus (Spring 2021)
Mr. Jourdan Room 3331 extension1023

justin.jourdan@byron.k12.mn.us

Welcome to the first quarter of English 9B. This quarter promises to be full of opportunity and growth for us all and I look forward to helping you on your way to experiencing success. You will have many opportunities to succeed in my class, but you will find that being successful is primarily your responsibility and will take work. I am here to teach you, guide you, help you, and offer you the chance for a successful quarter.

Course Description:

This course explores the genres of Drama and the Novel. You will learn to examine and evaluate literature both on a critical and personal level through writing responses, essays, projects and presentations, tests/quizzes, journal entries, and discussion. You will continue to hone your vocabulary and grammar skills through classroom activities and practices, keeping a record of your work in a 3-ring binder. You can expect writing assignments related to what you read or discuss in and out of class, including a major paper on *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Course Outcomes:

1. Students will learn the elements of fiction through the short story and novel.
2. Students will improve their grammar and vocabulary skills by working through practice and the writings for class.
3. Students will improve their writing skills, specifically organizational elements, though expository writing assignments associated with the readings.

Materials/Books We Will Cover:

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
McDougal-Little English (grammar)

Materials for Class:

- 3-ring Binder with loose leaf paper and dividers
- Writing utensils (pen/pencil) and erasers—no bright ink please; I won't accept it.
- Assignment book/planner any Textbook/book we are reading

Grading Scales:

This class will have weighted grades according to the following percentages:
Tests/Quizzes = 40%, Writing/Projects = 40%, Daily Work/Homework = 20%. My grading scale follows the school-wide system found on Infinite Campus. Students should expect announced and unannounced quizzes, tests, regular writing assignments, group work, and various projects, all of which will contribute to the assessment of a student's academic progress.

Grade Percentage Breakdown:

94-100% = A	90-93% = A-	87-89% = B+
84-86% = B	80-83% = B-	77-79% = C+
74-76% = C	70-73% = C-	67-69% = D+
64-66% = D	60-63% = D-	0-59% = F

**You will be evaluated in the following categories:*

Homework: This includes any journal responses and assigned work from class.

Tests/Quizzes: Quizzes, tests, final unit exams, and unit projects.

Writing/Projects: This includes the in-class writing, your presentation, and any formal writing piece.

Nota Bene: *Failure to complete any major unit test, project, or paper will result in a possible failure for the quarter.*

Homework/Attendance Policy:

- You should expect to have homework at least four days a week. While many of the assignments begin in class, I will assign reading passages, vocabulary, worksheets, reflection writing, or your essay.
- My homework/attendance policy is very simple: do your best to be in class and do your work. When you miss class, you miss important information, discussions, and activities; this includes tardiness!
- As for late assignments/work, homework assignments are expected on the date that they are due. I will give you a week's grace period to turn in. After that, no credit will be given.
- You must submit the required *To Kill a Mockingbird* paper on or before the due date to receive full credit. Any late papers will be lowered a full letter grade for each **school day** they are late. If you are ill or you cannot turn in your paper to me in person on the due date, you must contact me before the due date to make arrangements for turning in the paper and for you to receive full credit.
- If you have an **excused absence(s)**, you will get a **two-day** extension (school policy). I also ask that you please see me for upcoming assignments in advance if you know you will be gone for an extended period of time. If you miss several days of school, you must meet with me to discuss your missed assignments.
- You will **NOT** get credit for assignments missed for an unexcused absence (school policy).
- If you are absent on the day of a quiz, test, or writing assignment, you must be ready to take the quiz or test or turn in the paper on the day you return to class.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Any acts plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero grade for that assignment. I will contact your parents and the office to inform them of the situation. Please see the student handbook. We will cover the definition of plagiarism, how to avoid it, and the MLA format you will need for your writing.

PLD use in room

Personal Learning Devices (PLD) include the following: your school iPad, laptops, iPhones, iTouch, smartphones, etc. PLDs may only be used in regard to course material (research, solutions, course videos, poll taking etc.). PLDs may **only** be used when directed by the teacher or when you request permission. Inappropriate use (texting, using facebook, surfing non-related classroom material etc.) will be turned into the office as a violation of PLD policy. Except in rare instances, you will use only your iPad in class, so do not plan to use your phones in class (keep them off and out of sight).

Classroom Rules and Expectations:

- Food and beverages, other than water, are **NOT** allowed in the classroom. Please do your part to keep the room clean. School Rule.
- Respect others and their ideas, respect the classroom, and respect yourself. Racial or sexist slurs, profanity will not be tolerated.
- Be prepared: Bring books, notebooks, folders, and writing utensils with you to class.
- I do not give out extra credit projects.

- **Statement of acceptance of classroom rules, guidelines, course expectations, and grade book policy.**

Your first assignment for this class is to show this sheet to your parents and return it signed by **Friday, January 20**

Movie Permission:

During the course of the quarter, we will be viewing some videos and Youtube clips in conjunction with the literature. We will view *To Kill a Mockingbird* in its entirety, and scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* or *Romeo + Juliet*. By signing below, you are giving your child permission to watch all of the movies/videos for this class and agree not to take any action against the teacher or district for any material in the movies that may be unsuitable for your child. Each student has the right to remove themselves from class if they deem anything in the movies to be offensive, and doing so will not affect their grade in any way.

_____ (student name) has permission to watch all movies for this class.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Dear parents/guardians:

Please review the above information, and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at justin.jourdan@byron.k12.mn.us. I will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have. If you have no questions at this time, I would ask that both you and your child sign below and return this document to me so that I have a record of it. Thank you.

I/We have read and understand the course description and policies concerning homework, attendance, the use of PLD's, and Plagiarism. I/We agree to it in its entirety.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____
(Parents, please note my contact information and feel free to contact me when necessary)