

English 9 Syllabus
2026-2027
(full year course)

Teacher: Mrs. Enos

School Email: laura.enos@hpstigers.org

Room: 233

Welcome to English 9! This course offers you the opportunity to grow as a reader, writer, listener, speaker, researcher, reflector and analyzer. Whether you feel at this moment that improving your reading, writing, and vocabulary skills are important to you or not, hopefully by the end of your 9th grade year you will see how applicable the issues we cover in class are connected to the topics and situations that you will be faced with beyond this classroom experience. Remember, we aren't all starting at the same place—our strengths and weaknesses are as varied as our personalities. Each of us can improve this year if we work together to build a strong classroom community. In other words: We must respect each other! Hastings High School's motto #Every1aTiger is a required expectation in Room 233 (A.K.A. We will all be nice/kind/polite/respectful to one another)!

Course Description: All Freshmen must take either this course or English 9H. This course builds on the language and literary skills introduced in previous years. Students will improve reading and comprehension skills by emphasizing critical thinking. Students study major types of literature, creative and expository writing, grammar and usage, and vocabulary. Literature includes short stories and novels. Two writing assessments are required. Writing assessments must meet all department requirements. Students will build an argument using a strong thesis and support.

- **Required Text/Literature:** there will be required novels/play (Ex: *A Shining Season*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hunger Games*, etc.) and a short stories unit.
- **Grammar Focus:** complete sentences, subject-verb agreement, capitalization, difficult/misused words
- **Required Essays:** Two essays. Failure to turn in a required essay will result in failure for the entire semester.
- **Articles of the Week (AoW):** Students are expected to annotate and respond to articles supplied by the teacher. Responses will take a variety of forms and will be graded on both quality of response and annotations.
- **Sustained Silent Reading (S.S.R.)/Choice Reading:** All students will participate in sustained silent reading (SSR) for a minimum of 10-15 minutes per class. This is time for you to read a book that is interesting to you from outside the curriculum. Students must bring books to class. A storage space will be

supplied for students to keep their choice book in the room if needed. The school library will be great resources to select reading for enjoyment this year. Reading is foundational and a vital skill for life! Take advantage of the great titles your school library has to offer! I also loan out books from my classroom bookshelf. Simply let me know if you'd like to borrow a book/novel!

- [Power Essentials](#)

Grade Scale:

98-100% = A+	88-89% = B+	78-79% = C+	60-69% = D
92-97% = A	82-87% = B	72-77% = C	0-59% = F
90-91% = A-	80-81% = B-	70-71% = C-	

Grade Weighting:

Summative Assessments (Tests, final drafts of writing, projects, presentations, quizzes, etc.)	70%
Formative Assessments (Study guides, homework, discussions, working drafts of writing, etc.)	30%

Staying Connected:

- Google Classroom will be a central location where materials I use in class will be posted and where most of the completed and finished course work will be submitted to me for grading.
- Please always check the [HHS Weekly Planners](#) found on the school's website if you're ever absent from class, want to reread/remind/revisit/review information, or want to utilize study tools to help you be successful in class.
- You will have to check your hpstigers.org email account **every school day.**

Materials:

***A folder/binder/organizer** to store your handouts/hard copies (**don't throw anything away** until the end of each semester. When in doubt, just ask.)

***pencils**

***a colored pen (red, blue, purple, green...any color that's easy to read; ex: avoid yellow pens)**

***one green, one yellow, and one pink highlighter**

Cheating:

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the most serious academic offense you can commit. It is the act of stealing someone else's work, words, or ideas, reuse a former piece of writing you used for another class, etc. You cannot receive credit for something that is not your actual work. You have your own great, original ideas; be confident and don't be tempted to steal!

Plagiarism may take the form of:

- Direct copying (from a book, from the internet, from another person)
- Having someone else do the work for you (a tutor, a relative, a friend, purchasing an essay off the internet)
- Working on an assignment with a peer when it is NOT a partner/group assignment
- Failing to cite your sources in a piece of writing. Never be afraid to ask how to properly cite a source. I am here to help!
- Utilizing ChatGPT/A.I. tool to create a piece for an assigned **original/student composed** piece of writing

If you're uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to bring me your questions prior to a grading deadline.

Violating testing procedures – including talking during the test or unauthorized use of technology – is cheating.

Penalty: Work must be redone or may receive no credit, depending on the assignment.

Zeros:

Zeros are not acceptable. Students with missing assignments will:

1. Have a conversation with the teacher.
2. Be requested to T3 to be retaught.
3. Receive reminders during class.
4. Have parents and guardians contacted by the teacher.
5. Complete the assignment in a timely manner.

If you sense that a problem or a less-than-ideal pattern is developing, please take the initiative to come talk to me about ways we can improve the situation. Once again: personal responsibility is the key to success here.

English Department Late Work Policy:

Students will have 10 school days following an assignment's due date to submit their work. After these 10 days, any remaining missing assignments will remain a zero in Synergy and cannot be submitted for credit. The deadline for submitting a missing assignment is 4:00 pm on the 10th school day.

Teachers will add a zero and a missing tag to the assignment in Synergy on the original due date. Once the missing assignment is turned in, the zero will be replaced with the earned grade. This ensures all stakeholders have a current understanding of where they are in each class.

This policy includes both formative and summative assignments.

If a student is gone for a period of time due to extenuating circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with their teachers to develop a plan for completing their assignments. At the end of the semester, all missing assignments are due by 4:00 pm on the Friday before finals begin.

Retake Procedures to Achieve Proficiency (70%)

Students will have 5 school days following a summative assignment to request a retake. After these 5 days, the original earned grade will remain in Synergy.

This policy includes only summative assignments.

Tardy Policy:

Students who are **in their assigned seats when the bell rings** will be on time.

Tardies are reported to the office. More than three tardies in a semester will result in detention time, assigned by the vice-principal.

PBIS:

You are expected to show respect for the school, teacher, and classmates as stated in the PBIS guidelines and follow all the rules as listed. Failure to do so will result in being written up and/or sent to the administrative offices.

Purposeful in procedures	• Be on time. • Be prepared to learn.
Respectful and responsible	• Treat others well. • Listen. • Put your phone/earbuds away.
Involved	• Be an active participant. • Do your own work.
Determined to be safe	• Use school-appropriate behaviors. • Wear your ID.
Excellence	• Do your best work every day. • See mistakes as opportunities for improvement.

It is important that all students treat one another (not just the teacher, but peers too) with kindness and respect. The [Student Handbook](#) clearly defines the school's expectations. The rules of the [Student Handbook](#) will be enforced at all times in this classroom (including our school policies concerning electronics).

Hall Passes

Students will use the electronic hall pass application. Use the following procedure:

1. Ask permission BEFORE creating a pass.
2. Upon receiving permission, create a pass.
3. As you leave the room, put your laptop on the teacher desk in E-Hall pass trays.
4. Upon returning, you can collect your computer from the tray and end your pass.

Cell Phones

When entering the classroom, students are expected to place their phones, ear buds, etc. in a numbered pouch on the wall. The number needs to coincide with the assigned number given to that student for the year (A Cheat Sheet is posted next to the cell phone pouches). Phones need to be turned off, put on silent, or do not disturb during the class period so as to not be a disruption. Students are not allowed to use their smartwatch for communication purposes. If students are found to be utilizing their phone, ear buds, or smartwatch during the period, they will be confiscated and turned in to the office. No warnings will be given.

Computer Use

Students have been issued computers by the school. These computers are not optional tools, but necessary parts of a contemporary curriculum. Students are expected to have computers **in class** and be charged every day. Computers **not issued** by the school are **not allowed**.

During class, computers are to be used **for classwork only** unless specific permission is granted by the teacher for other educational activities.

Parent/Guardian Communication:

Parents/Guardians will be contacted via email or phone to report chronic missing assignments, missing required essays, concerning assessment results and any behavior concerns.

ParentSquare is a secure site that allows students and parents to receive texts and/or emails from the teacher. It is the quickest way for the teacher to get information, reminders, and changes out. You need to [download the app](#) and sign up. More information about [ParentSquare can be found on the district's website](#).

If you have any questions please contact me at laura.enos@hpstigers.org.