

Course Outline: English 9R
East Rockaway Junior/Senior High School
Mrs. Best, Ms. Perrone, and Mrs. Volpe
2026-2027



Course Overview:

In English 9R, students will work towards mastery of the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards and continue to build on the skills acquired in their middle school years. All students will be pushed and supported to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate a variety of works from multiple literary genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and multimedia sources. Additionally, students will hone their critical reading, writing and test-taking skills and strategies to better prepare them for their future English Regents as well as for general college and career readiness. As the ninth-grade curriculum is rich and rigorous, appropriate scaffolding and instructional support will be provided to ensure success for all students. Grades will be comprised of what students produce, which includes but is not limited to the following: quizzes, tests, papers, essays, and projects; and class participation and preparation, which includes but is not limited to the following: active participation in all class activities, demonstrating cooperation, timeliness, and more.

Grading and Homework Policy:

Each task will be assigned a number of points according to its difficulty level (e.g., a quiz might be worth 40 points while an essay might be 100 points). Points will be added up and divided by the maximum number of points possible.

All **quarter grades** will be comprised of the following:

- Formal Assessments (essays, tests, quizzes, projects, presentations) - 60%
- Class Participation - 10%
- Homework - 10%
- Graded Classwork - 20%

Homework—We believe that in order to progress, students must put great effort and thought into their independent work both in and outside of the classroom. Therefore, homework is due at the **beginning** of class to ensure you are prepared to participate responsibly in the day's activities. **All homework should be completed independently (without the use of AI/other sources and people) unless otherwise stated by your teachers.****

Late Work—We believe that work should be completed on time so that you feel confident and up to date with our class activities and the skills we're utilizing. Trying to complete assignments that were due 6 weeks earlier often results in rushed, unpolished work. Therefore, no work will be accepted **after the midpoint of a quarter**. Points will be deducted for assignments turned in late.

Units of Study:

- a. *Anthem* by Ayn Rand: Reviewing major literary concepts/terminology and thematic study
- b. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee: Text Analysis writing (Regents-based task) and thematic study
- c. *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare: Poetry (sonnet) writing and argument/thematic analysis study
- d. *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe: Building cultural competency and Argument writing (Regents-based task)
- e. Project-based learning unit based on a TED Talk argument unit
- f. Poetry, short stories, and various works of nonfiction all related to the major texts listed above; grammar units interwoven throughout the year (passive vs. active voice, subject-verb agreement, punctuation)

Major Assessment Information:

- A. Midterm Examination: January 2027 (in class—based on skills learned throughout quarters 1 and 2).
- B. Final TED Talk Project (in class): June 2027 **This is a preparatory class for the English Regents that you will take during your junior year; therefore, there is no Regents exam in English 9.*

Class Routines and Expectations:

A. Plagiarism: We believe that your work should be completed in an honest manner. Therefore, all work should be **written in your own words**. Any unoriginal work will be handled via the plagiarism policy. This includes copying off of another student's paper or homework assignment, using online sources without proper citation or when you are not supposed to consult other sources, and reusing past assignments for new tasks. **This also includes the use of AI technology to complete work (e.g., ChatGPT)**. In the next week, you will be reading and signing the school's plagiarism policy.

B. Class Beliefs, Routines, and Responsibilities

- a. Behavior—As ninth graders, we expect that you will conduct yourselves like young adults and will exhibit **mature, thoughtful behavior**. We all deserve respect and should continually demonstrate a positive, constructive attitude in class. Each quarter, you will receive a **participation grade** (to be counted in the class participation portion of your grade) based on the school rubric. In addition, all students are required to follow the code of conduct (no tardies, appropriate attire and language, no eating/drinking in class).
- b. Materials—Students should bring a **writing utensil, a binder/notebook and folder, notebook paper, a Chromebook, a Chromebook charger**, and the **novel for the current unit** of study to class every day.
- c. Phones, laptops, and other electronics—**Phones are NOT allowed in the classroom at all during school hours**. If you think you are having an emergency situation that necessitates the use of a cell phone, alert your teachers immediately. **Chromebooks are to be used solely for academic purposes and with the approval of your teachers**. All electronic infractions will result in phone calls home, removal of devices, and referrals to administration.

C. Google Classroom

You will be required to submit many assignments online through Google Classroom. Please ensure that you check Google Classroom regularly, as we will post notes/updates and respond to any questions you may have throughout the school year. Use Google Classroom as a way of communicating with your classmates and teachers regarding any questions you may have; **treat it as a professional space**.

Contact and Extra-Help Information:

- Mrs. Best (Room 202): Tuesday AM 7:20-7:50AM and Thursday PM 3:00-3:30 PM; mbest@eastrockawayschools.org
- Ms. Perrone (Room 114): Tuesday and Thursday AM 7:20-7:50 AM sperrone@eastrockawayschools.org
- Mrs. Volpe (Room 113): Wednesday and Thursday PM (3:00-3:30 PM); svolpe@eastrockawayschools.org

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism (as stated in the ERHS Student Handbook)

What is cheating? Cheating is the use of dishonest means to gain or give an advantage. This includes, but is not limited to, using secretive means to get ahead or do better on quizzes, tests, projects, essays and other graded assessments.

What is plagiarism? Plagiarism is academic theft. It is the passing off of another's work (whether found on the internet, obtained from a published source, or obtained from a friend) as one's own.

Students should consider all work that is assigned as work to be independently completed unless the teacher specifies otherwise. When in doubt, do it yourself without assistance. It is always best to obtain extra help from a teacher, when necessary, to improve your own skill set, rather than turn to the strengths of another for illicit gain.

- **Consequences for Academic Dishonesty**

- **First Offense**

- Grade of 'o' will be assigned until the assignment is made up.
- Student is required to make up assignment.
- Grade will be reduced by 25% to 50%, based on the discretion of the teacher, in consultation with department chairperson/administrator.
- Required parent meeting with student, teacher, guidance counselor and department chairperson/ administrator.
- Referral to Ms. Terranova (grades 7-9), who will keep the official record of all incidents.

- **Second Offense**

- Zero on the assignment with no chance to make-up.
- Required parent meeting with student, teacher, guidance counselor and department chairperson/ administrator.
- Referral to Ms. Terranova (grades 7-9), who will keep the official record of all incidents.

****ANY ACT OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY IS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

****Students that willingly assist in an act of Academic Dishonesty are subject to academic and/or disciplinary consequences as described above.**

Please keep in mind that offenses accumulate across all courses and content areas.

****Please return the signed section below to your English teachers by Friday, September 4th.***

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the course outline and plagiarism policy.

Student Name (Print): _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian/Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

For parent/guardian: If there's anything important you feel we should know about your student, please email us or send a ParentSquare message so we can be informed.