

Foresthill High School – English 9 Syllabus | Fall 2025

Teacher: Mrs. Nokes | Semester Length: 88 days

Welcome Letter from Mrs. Nokes

Hello and welcome!

I am incredibly excited to be your English 9 teacher this semester. As someone who was born and raised right here in Foresthill, I am honored to now serve this community as an educator at the high school level. After nearly a decade in the classroom, I'm thrilled to bring my passion for literature, creativity, and student-centered learning into the world of secondary English.

Throughout my teaching career, I've learned that every student has a unique path to success. That belief is at the heart of everything I do. I design my classroom using the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), meaning I provide multiple ways for students to access content, express their ideas, and engage in learning. Whether a student thrives through discussion, creative expression, structure, or movement, I'm committed to making sure they have the tools they need to succeed.

I am passionate about creating meaningful experiences that make learning memorable. From immersive novel studies to performance tasks and classroom transformations, my goal is to make English 9 a place where students feel seen, challenged, and supported. I believe in helping students build their voice, grow their confidence, and develop the skills they'll need long after high school.

I'm so excited to begin this journey with you, and I'm here to support every step of the way!

Course Overview

In English 9, students will grow as readers, writers, and communicators. We'll explore identity, loyalty, and personal voice through two powerful novels and a dynamic poetry unit to close out the semester. Throughout the course, students will write narrative, argumentative, and explanatory essays and engage in classroom discussions that help them make real-world connections.

Supplies

- A folder or binder section for English 9
- College ruled paper
- Pencils and erasers

Units of Study

Unit 1: ***Divergent*** novel study + narrative writing

Unit 2: ***Code of Honor*** novel study + argumentative writing

Unit 3: **Poetry** exploration + explanatory essay

Grade Scale & Cut Scores

Placer Union High School District uses a **modified letter grade scale** aligned with competency-based learning and Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs). Final grades reflect a student's mastery of course content and skills, as demonstrated through ELO-aligned assessments and tasks.

Letter grade	Point Range	Description
A Advanced Mastery Demonstrated	3.75–4.00	The student demonstrates exceptional understanding and application of concepts. Work includes perceptive insight, complex analysis, and creativity across varied contexts.
B Exceeds Minimum Mastery	2.75–3.74	The student demonstrates strong understanding and application of concepts beyond basic expectations. Work shows depth and clarity.
C Meets Minimum Mastery	2.00–2.74	The student demonstrates adequate understanding and has met expectations for grade-level skills and knowledge. All required ELOs have been completed.
D/'I' Mastery Not Yet Met	1.9 and below	The student has not yet consistently demonstrated mastery of grade-level ELOs. Students may be given an Incomplete ("I") if they are close to passing at the end of the term, as determined by the teacher. If the student does not complete agreed-upon remediation within the set time frame, the "I" converts to a "D", which earns course credit but does not allow advancement to a sequential course (e.g., English 10). The student may be required to retake the course if the next level course is a graduation requirement.

Gradebook Categories & Weights

Your grade will be based on the following weighted categories:

- **Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)** – 70%
- **Assessments (Quizzes)** – 20%
- **Practice Assignments / Classwork** – 10%

Below are the **ELOs** we will focus on:

ELO #	Essential Learning Outcome	Aligned CCSS
1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis and inferences.	RL.9-10.1 / RI.9-10.1
2	Determine a theme or central idea and analyze its development over the course of a text.	RL.9-10.2 / RI.9-10.2
3	Analyze how complex characters, individuals, or ideas develop and interact throughout a text.	RL.9-10.3 / RI.9-10.3
4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze tone and diction.	RL.9-10.4 / RI.9-10.4
5	Analyze how an author's structure and choices affect meaning, emphasis, and pacing.	RL.9-10.5 / RI.9-10.5
6	Analyze point of view and purpose, and how they shape content and style.	RL.9-10.6 / RI.9-10.6
7	Write arguments to support claims with valid reasoning, relevant evidence, and clear organization.	W.9-10.1
8	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas clearly and effectively.	W.9-10.2
9	Write narratives using effective techniques, well-structured event sequences, and sensory details.	W.9-10.3
10	Conduct research projects using credible sources, and integrate them properly into writing.	W.9-10.7 / W.9-10.8
11	Demonstrate command of conventions of standard English and proper MLA formatting.	L.9-10.1 / L.9-10.2 / W.9-10.6

Retakes and Revisions

Students may revise or retake any major ELO-aligned assignment if they score a 1 or 2. A revision plan and conference may be required before the new attempt. Our classroom culture is centered on learning from mistakes and taking ownership of improvement.

Homework

There is **no regular homework** in English 9. All major reading and writing will be done in class. If students are absent or need extra time, they may be asked to complete unfinished work at home.

Let's Partner for a Great Year

This class is about more than just reading and writing...it's about building confidence, communication, and academic habits that last! I am here to support your child every step of the way. Please reach out any time you have a question or concern. I am so excited for this semester and to get to know each of you! Let's make it a meaningful and memorable year!

Mrs. Nokes

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