



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS GRADE 9

INSTRUCTOR: DEJAH PARKER | [DEJAH\\_PARKER@CHINO.K12.CA.US](mailto:DEJAH_PARKER@CHINO.K12.CA.US)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Ms. Dejah Parker  
Room: C106

The best way to contact me is through district email:  
[dejah\\_parker@chino.k12.ca.us](mailto:dejah_parker@chino.k12.ca.us)

Students, please use your district assigned email when contacting me. Be sure to include the reason for contacting me, your full name, and the class period number in the email subject line, for example: Vocab Quiz II Makeup (Student Full Name, Class Period)).

I am committed to responding to all student and parent emails within 15 hours on weekdays.

## COURSE MATERIALS

The course textbook will be myPerspectives ELA California Grade 9. This textbook will be provided by the school and students will also be able to access a digital copy on Savvas.

Any texts that we read that are not in the textbook will either be provided by the library or can be accessed online.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION & OVERVIEW

This is an English course designed to meet the needs of the student working above grade level. The emphasis is on the further development of writing ability in general, the introduction of analytical writing and the writing domains specified in the District Writing Portfolio, abstract and critical thinking, an introduction to literary genres, and an appreciation of literature. Mythology and a Shakespearean play are included as major content areas. Other things covered include vocabulary development, listening and speaking skills, and further improvement in the student's library and research skills. The course is conducted at an accelerated level and is designed to prepare students for other English Honors and accelerated courses in grades ten through twelve.

The skills outlined in the District's Standards and Objectives for the ninth grade level are necessary components to create communication-literate students who will continue to thrive throughout their high school career and beyond into post-high school education and the workforce.

Attached, you will find a tentative list of major works for the year, classroom procedures and rules, class and school policies regarding attendance, as well as an outline of consequences and grades. Feel free to contact me using the information below if you have any questions. Please review this letter with your student, and sign and return the last page.

### Classroom Objectives and Course of Events

This is a multi-genre course, including literature, oratory, drama, and essays/articles. We will focus on analysis of texts as well as studying more traditional literary aspects of fiction. The year will be broken down into several units:

**Unit 1:** American Voices

**Unit 2:** Survival

**Unit 3:** The Literature of Civil Rights

**Unit 4:** Star Crossed Romances

**Unit 5:** Journeys of Transformation

**Unit 6:** World's End

This course is designed to encourage critical thinking and to explore new ideas outside of our everyday experiences. This will be achieved with an overview of

Additional course materials, posted assignments, announcements, and other important resources can be found on our Google Classroom. Access to Google Classroom requires a CVUSD-issued Google and/or Office 365 account. Students will be utilizing Google Classroom and other online resources frequently, so ChromeBooks should be brought to class everyday fully charged.

Additionally, students can choose to accept text messages using the Remind App to stay up to date on assignments.

both contemporary and classical literature as well as through multimedia. As an advanced course, the expectations and rigor of the class will be held to a higher standard than in a traditional English class.

The expectations for academic honesty will be held to the utmost standards. Students are always expected to complete their own work. Collaboration and discussion are always encouraged, but copying work is never allowed. **Any cheating or plagiarism will result in immediate consequences as stated in school policy, including a zero on the assignment, detention, counseling, etc.**

#### Classroom Materials

Tentatively, the major works we will be reading will be *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, and *The Odyssey* by Homer, and various short stories, poems, and articles as time permits to supplement the themes and topics discussed in each unit.

Novels and plays will be provided by the school, but should students have personal copies, they may use their own. Various essays and articles will also be assigned and will be provided in class. Students should always come to class prepared each day with materials to be used for the day, including bringing assigned novels, essays, and articles.

#### SSR

Each semester, students will be tasked to choose an approved novel to read every Friday for self sustained reading time. Students are expected to choose a book that is appropriate for their grade level, get it approved by me, and bring it to class every Friday. Students will be able to check out a book at the library, so they do not need to buy a book. However, they can choose to do so. Near the end of each semester, students will be assigned a project that will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of their chosen book, so they should choose something that they will be able to finish.

#### Weekly Agenda

Every day of the week will start with a morning activity. Mondays will begin with a quick write journal, Tuesdays-Thursdays will start with a vocabulary activity or quiz, and Fridays will start with silent reading.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

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### **Classroom Behavior & Expectations**

Classroom expectations are aligned with the Chino High School Wide Expectations:

**•Be Respectful:** Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated. Students will respect themselves, and show respect to the instructor, their classmates, and the classroom. Behave with maturity and respect by actively listening when someone else, whether the instructor or a peer, is speaking. Respect our classroom by refraining from eating and drinking in the classroom, disposing of trash in the proper receptacles, cleaning up after yourself, and treating books and classroom supplies with care. Immaturity during class is a safety concern and will not be tolerated and may result in a significant loss of points, an automatic "Unsatisfactory" in citizenship, and/or additional consequences. Offensive, crude, or obscene language will not

be tolerated. The school dress code, including the wearing of hats, sweatshirt hoods, and sunglasses in class, as outlined in the student handbook will be enforced at all times

**•Be Responsible:** Come to class prepared and ready to learn. There is no excuse for lack of materials, lack of preparedness, or ignorance of information addressed in class and/or posted on the Google Classroom. Students are expected to be in their seats by the time the late bell rings and will be marked tardy if they are not. Students are expected to use the restroom, if necessary, during passing periods before or after class.

**•Be Present and Engaged:** The course functions best when everyone is present, both physically and mentally, and actively participates. The use of electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, smart watches, Chromebooks, earbuds/headphones) outside of teacher directed poses a huge distraction to student learning and is thus strictly prohibited. Cell phones must be off/silent and away unless you are given explicit instruction to use your phone for some course purpose. Cell phones must be kept off and in plain view for the entirety of the period on exam days. Failure to do so will result in a score of zero on the exam.

#### Behavior: Positive Rewards and Negative Consequences

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Verbal praise</li><li>➤ E.C. point(s)</li><li>➤ Call home in praise</li><li>➤ Homework Pass</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Verbal Warning</li><li>➤ Student-Teacher Conference</li><li>➤ Call Home/Parent-Teacher Conference</li><li>➤ Detention/Referral</li></ul>

#### Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by Chino Valley Unified School District and Chino High School policies on academic integrity. It is expected that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty.

Collaboration is an essential skill students will need to learn, and it will be a foundation we utilize frequently in this class. However, there is a fine line between collaborating and cheating/stealing. Collaboration is working together to solve a problem or produce/create something **together**, while plagiarism is taking someone else's work that they did and trying to claim it as your own, and it can happen whether you meant to do it or not. This could come in the form of direct copying, paraphrasing, and ever summarizing. The only way to avoid plagiarism is to cite the author or creator of the information that you are using. In this class, we will also learn how and where to find credible sources and properly learn how to cite information that we got from anywhere other than our own thoughts. We will talk about plagiarism in more detail as a class, and you will be frequently reminded how to avoid plagiarism as we work together in class.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Getting help from your teacher, a peer, or an adult is acceptable, but do not allow yourself to pass off work that is not yours as your own. As such, some assignments will have evidence of collaboration. Students agree that by taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Any violation of this policy is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Students found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to Chino Valley Unified School District and Chino High School discipline policies. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following: a zero grade on the assignment, project, assessment, or any other activity where the academic dishonesty occurred, parent notification, and disciplinary action (e.g., administrative detention, Friday Work/Study, ALC, suspension).

#### Late/Make-up Work

Students who will be absent for an extended period of time should obtain homework and make-up activities from the teacher. Please make requests at least 24 hours in advance. Students will be allowed to make-up missed work due to absence. They will have an equal number of days to turn in made-up work as the number of days absent. For example, a student who misses 3 days of class will have 3 days (not including weekends) to turn in make-up work. Students are responsible for requesting work in a timely manner and for turning in the work on time.

I will only take late homework up to three days after a deadline, but can and will accommodate late assessments according to standards-based grading. Students should make every attempt to turn all work in on schedule, but communication is key, and I cannot stress how much clear communication is important to balancing and managing a student's busy schedule.

If a student has an excused absence on the day of a quiz or test, they will have up to a week from the day they were absent to make up the quiz without penalty. However, if a student makes up a quiz or text after a week, they will lose one point for each day that passes after the week.. Quiz and test makeups will only be accepted up until the grading period ends.

## EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The course grade given to each student shall be based on student achievement in meeting the requirements specified in the California Common Core ELA Standards, curriculum embedded and/or District assessments, and other relevant curriculum and instruction.

This evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

<b>Summative Assessments</b> (e.g. examinations, performance assessments, essays, projects)	50% of the final grade
<b>Formative Assessments</b> (e.g., quizzes, TDQs, SSR)	10% of the final grade
<b>All Other Assignments</b> (e.g., classwork, homework, journals)	40% of the final grade

### Course Content

A 90 – 100%  
 B 80 – 89%  
 C 70 – 79%  
 D 60 – 69%  
 F 0 – 59%

### Work Habits/Effort/Behavior

O Outstanding  
 S Satisfactory  
 N Needs Improvement  
 U Unsatisfactory

Grades will be updated weekly and can be accessed online via the student and/or parent Aeries Portal.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COURSE POLICIES

Signing of this page serves as an acknowledgment that both student and parent/guardian have read and understand the course expectations as outlined above. In addition, signature of this page indicates familiarization with the Biomedical Science and Technology Academy policies found in the school handbook.

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 Student Name (Print) & Date

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 Student Signature

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 Parent/Guardian Name (Print) & Date

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 Parent/Guardian Signature