

English Language Arts 9 Honors

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Number: ELA3009H

Grade level: 9

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 1.0

Course Description

This freshman honors English course invites students to explore a variety of diverse and complex texts organized into thematic units. Students will engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts, both classic and contemporary. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and literary nonfiction, honors students will master comprehension, use evidence to conduct in-depth literary analysis, and examine and critique how authors develop ideas in a variety of genres. Interwoven throughout the lessons are activities that encourage students to strengthen their oral language skills, research and critically analyze sources of information, and produce clear, coherent writing. In addition to activities offered to students in core courses, honors students are given additional opportunities to create and to participate in project-based learning activities, including writing a Shakespearean sonnet and creating an original interpretation of a Shakespearean play. Honors students will read a range of classic texts, including Homer's *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Jack London's "To Build a Fire" and Richard Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game." Students will also read Sue Macy's full length nonfiction work *Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)*, and will study a variety of short but complex texts, including influential speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan. Contemporary texts by Richard Preston, Julia Alvarez, and Maya Angelou round out the course.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Demonstrate knowledge of foundational works of literature.
- Analyze seminal works of literary nonfiction and evaluate their structure and reasoning.
- Analyze the impact of an author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a text.
- Demonstrate increasing sophistication in the routine and process of writing.
- Learn to use Standard English from a variety of grammar lessons.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Students are expected to spend approximately five to seven hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Quiz	20%
Test	30%
Exam	20%
Essay	10%
Assignment	10%
Additional	0%
Project	10%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

Unit 1: Mythology

Unit 2: The Epic Hero's Quest

Unit 3: Individuality and Conformity

Unit 4: Independence and the Bicycle

Unit 5: Nature and the Environment

Unit 6: Making a Difference

Unit 7: Caring

Unit 8: Tragedy and Drama

Unit 9: Espionage and Intrigue

Unit 10: Mystery and Suspense

Unit 11: Fighting for Equality

Unit 12: Unity and Division