

# English I Honors - Syllabus

Ms. Pliske

2016/2017 School Year

*“Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody expects of you. Never excuse yourself.”*

*-Henry Ward Beecher*

## Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide grade 9 students, using texts of high complexity, advanced integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness.

**Honors and Advanced Level Course Note:** Academic rigor is more than simply assigning to students a greater quantity of work. Through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted, students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning.

## Instructional Philosophy

Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing will be integrated throughout the students' learning experiences in line with college and career readiness standards. Students will participate in a variety of activities which will include, but are not limited to group work, oral presentations, reading inside and outside of the classroom, writing inside and outside of the classroom, research-based projects, and display projects. Technology will be available for students to develop their competencies.

## Course Content Goals

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- active reading of varied texts for what they say explicitly, as well as the logical inferences that can be drawn
- analysis of literature and informational texts from varied literary periods to examine:
  - text craft and structure
  - elements of literature
  - arguments and claims supported by textual evidence
  - power and impact of language
  - influence of history, culture, and setting on language
  - personal critical and aesthetic response
- writing for varied purposes
  - developing and supporting argumentative claims
  - crafting coherent, supported informative/expository texts
  - responding to literature for personal and analytical purposes
  - writing narratives to develop real or imagined events
  - writing to sources using text-based evidence and reasoning
- effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies with emphasis on the use of evidence to support or refute a claim in multimedia presentations, class discussions, and extended text discussions
- collaboration amongst peers

To build a foundation for college and career readiness, students must read widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts. Through extensive reading of stories, dramas, poems, and myths from diverse cultures and different time periods, students gain literary and cultural knowledge as well as familiarity with various text structures and elements.

## Florida Standards Assessment in English Language Arts

Curriculum will be designed to prepare students for the new Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in English Language Arts (ELA). Go to [www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com) and [www.fsaassessments.com](http://www.fsaassessments.com) for more info.

## Projects and Activities

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the material through a variety of projects and activities. These projects and activities will allow students to explore their written, oral, and artistic talents and demonstrate competency in addition to or as an alternative to traditional assessments. Technology will be available for all students during class.

## Course Assessment Plan

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways. In addition to traditional testing methods, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate mastery through projects and activities, open-ended answer items, essay response, oral presentation, journaling, etc.

## Homework Policy

No late work will be accepted. Students will receive 2 “Get out of Jail Free” cards to use per quarter. These cards can be turned in with an assignment the next class day with no penalty. Remember this is an honors class and will be treated like one. Not all assignments are eligible for use with the homework pass, those exceptions will be indicated at the time an assignment is given. Homework must still be completed to receive credit, even when a “Get out of Jail Free” card is used.

# High expectations = High Performance

## Absence Policy

Students will follow the Pompano Beach High Discipline Plan in regards to making up work due to absences. If a student is present on the day an assignment is given they are responsible for turning the work in on the due date regardless of any absences in between. Please visit the website [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) for all makeup work when absent. All makeup tests and quizzes **MUST** be made up in after school within ONE WEEK from date of absence. Alternative makeup quizzes and tests may be given. **If a student has an unexcused absence and misses a test, the highest score they will receive on the makeup assessment is a 60% (D).**

## Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is *presenting another person's words or ideas as if they were your own*. Pompano Beach High School prides itself on preparing students for the rigors of college. It is therefore imperative that students do their own work so that they learn content accurately. The faculty expects academic integrity; therefore, students must abide by the PBHS Honor Code when they complete assignments, tests, quizzes, projects, and all other work, both in class and out. **“Major cheating” will result in an Administrative referral. All cheating will result in a “F” grade on the assignment for all parties involved.** Allowing another student to copy your work is STILL cheating and will result in an F as well.

## Assessment

Each Nine Week period the student grade will be comprised of the following:

- 30% Tests/Essays
- 25% Projects/Portfolios
- 20% Quizzes (Vocabulary and Reading)
- 15% Homework/Classwork
- 10% Bellringers/Participation

\*See the Broward County grading scale for letter grade values.

## Suggested Supplies

- ✓ 3-Ring Binder (Can be used for other classes just make sure to have dividers)
- ✓ **Folders with pockets and clasps (One per major work – 4 total for the year)**
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ College ruled spiral notebook or loose leaf paper
- ✓ Blue or black pens
- ✓ No. 2 Pencils

## Major Works

This year, in addition to short stories, poetry, and non-fiction articles, students will read the following major works: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (Quarter 1), *The Odyssey* by Homer (Quarter 2), *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare (Quarter 3), and *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (Quarter 4).