

Name of School:

Name of Course: **Freshman Honors English**

Instructor Information

Name:
E-mail address:
School phone number:
Web page address:
Best times to be reached:

Course Description

Freshman Honors English is a two-term course designed to challenge the highly-motivated student who has demonstrated advanced skills in critical reading and composition. Students must meet established criteria to enroll in this course. Successful completion of this course will satisfy *English 9* requirements. This course provides an intense study of literary forms, and students will read challenging classic and modern texts from various genres, including poetry, short story, nonfiction, and drama. Students will enhance their speaking skills and demonstrate their understanding and interpretation of literary selections through varied oral and written presentations. Students' writing will demonstrate strong proficiency within a variety of writing modes. Students will use research to deepen their critical reading abilities and develop a comprehensive paper/project. Prospective students will be given a summer reading list of two titles to finish before the course begins. Students who are successful in this course are expected to enroll in additional honors English courses and Advanced Placement English courses.

District Standards and Power Benchmarks

Standard: Students will apply reading, writing, and speaking skills to communicate effectively.

Power Benchmarks:

- Students will be able to use speaking and listening strategies and technological tools to learn and communicate in a variety of situations.
- Students will be able to use a wide range of strategies to comprehend literary and informational texts.
- Students will be able to use a wide range of strategies to interpret, evaluate, and appreciate literary and informational texts.
- Students will be able to use the writing process and Standard English to write for a variety of purposes.

Course Information

Freshman Honors English is a two-term one-credit course that fulfills the required *English 9* graduation requirement. Students must meet certain district criteria to be enrolled in this course. Continuation of second term is based upon successful completion of first term.

Course Outline/Calendar

Pre-course work includes reading *The Chocolate War*, locating and reading a biography as assigned, and writing as required.

Term one of *Freshman Honors English* will include the following areas:

- Required academic vocabulary instruction
- **ACT Skills: English**
- The elements of fiction and short stories
- Readings using the Shared Inquiry method
- *Romeo and Juliet*, the elements of drama
- PSAT test prep
- Vocabulary
- Novel study
- Writing assignments:
 - Timed writings
 - Paragraphs
 - Personal narrative
 - Comparison/contrast
 - Persuasive
 - Other writings as assigned

Term two of *Freshman Honors English* will include the following areas:

- Novel study
- *The Odyssey*
- Literature Circles
- Readings using the Shared Inquiry method
- PSAT test prep
- Vocabulary
- Writing Assignments
 - Critical Analysis
 - The research paper
 - Timed writings
 - Other writings as assigned

Text/Other Required Materials/Resources

The Language of Literature (McDougal Littell)
The Writer's Choice (McDougal Littell)
Great Books Foundation *Series 9*
Selected novels

Additional Texts/Materials/Resources

Instructional Procedures & Support

- A variety of teaching methods and strategies will be used, e.g., direct instruction, cooperative groups, graphic organizers, note-taking, *Pathways*, QARs, and Read Alouds.
- **ACT Skills: English**
- District Literacy Initiative strategies will be used.
- Students will receive verbal and written instructions for major assignments.
- Students may come in for additional assistance before or after school. A time should be arranged with the teacher in advance.
- Compositions must include prewriting, rough drafts with evidence of editing, and final drafts stapled together. Compositions must be typed in Times New Roman font, 12-point size, and double spaced.

Classroom Management Procedures

Assessment Plan

Methods of assessment include: quizzes, tests, writing assignments, projects, and class participation. The following dates indicate when midterm and end-of-term reports will be available.

Grading System

Points accumulate for daily assignments, writing assignments, projects, presentations, quizzes, and tests. Points are divided by the total possible for the grading period to produce a percentage. The Davenport Community Schools' district percentage grading scale and grading periods are as follows:

Quarter	Mid Term	End of Quarter
Quarter 1	Sept. 20, 2010	Oct. 20, 2010
Quarter 2	Nov. 17, 2010	Dec. 21, 2010
Quarter 3	Feb. 4, 2011	Mar. 9, 2011
Quarter 4	Apr. 20, 2011	May 24, 2011

A	93 and above	Firm command of knowledge domain High level of skill development Exceptional preparation for later learning
A⁻	90 - 92	
B⁺	87 - 89	Command of knowledge beyond the basic concepts of knowledge Advanced development of most skills Has prerequisites for later learning
B	83 - 86	
B⁻	80 - 82	
C⁺	77 - 79	Command of the basic concepts of knowledge Demonstrates ability to use basic skills Lacks a few prerequisites for later learning
C	73 - 76	
C⁻	70 - 72	
I		The letter "I" indicates the student has not satisfactorily achieved the grade/course-level benchmarks and/or has missing work. "I" status is temporary and not a final grade. The letter "I" may affect athletic eligibility.
D⁺	67 - 69	Lacks knowledge of some fundamental ideas Some important skills not attained Deficient in many of the prerequisites for later learning
D	63 - 66	
D⁻	60 - 62	
F	59 and below	Most of the basic concepts and principles not learned Most essential skills have not been demonstrated Lacks most prerequisites needed for later learning