

Fundamental English I Honors: 2018/19 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Nicholas

E-Mail: nicholasm@pcsb.org Room Number: 01-047

School Phone Number: (727) 893-2780 ext. 1306



Welcome to 9th Grade Literature / Composition!

Course Description: This course focuses on the study of literature (including short stories, poetry, nonfiction, drama, and novels), in addition to language and composition. The purpose of this course is to prepare you for 10th through 12th grade advanced English courses, as well as the 9th - 10th grade Florida Standard Assessments (FSA) reading and writing exams. Emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of literary elements and devices, in addition to themes and central ideas. The writing process will also be taught to produce specific types of essays and practical writings. During this process, you will acquire advanced speaking and listening skills, vocabulary skills, study skills, reference skills and you will learn how to effectively study and use mass media concepts. This course is aligned with Florida Standards and Pinellas County's Grade Level Expectations.

Textbook: *HRW Florida Collections: Grade 9*

Online Access: <https://clever.com/login>

Select the **My HRW** [Holt McDougal Online] icon.

Materials:

- 1 tab, labeled "English 1", in your BCHS binder. 2 divided sections: Bell-work and Course-work
 - Your binder is 15% of your quarter grade. Always place the newest assignment on top, within each section.
- Notebook paper
- Thumb Drive (or an electronic method of storing and retrieving typed information)
- Writing Utensils

Grading Policy

Students are encouraged to keep an accurate list of all assignments and grades, as well as graded papers in order to verify recorded grades. Assignments are divided into the following categories:

- Homework and Class Assignments
- Projects (group & individual)
- Tests, Essays and Quizzes
- Classroom Participation

Enhanced Rigor: Students in this course will be assigned tasks that transcend the standard curriculum, which will result in the completion of more rigorous work.

Grading Scale

- A** 90 - 100% Outstanding progress
- B** 80 - 89% Above average progress
- C** 70 - 79% Average progress
- D** 60 - 69% Lowest acceptable progress
- F** 0 - 59% Failure

Special Assignments and Projects

Throughout the year students will be responsible for:

- A research paper, in addition to a poetry and autobiography project. **(Late assignments will not be accepted unless an excused absence has been documented with the administrative office.)**
- Students will still be expected to participate in, and keep up with other reading and writing activities in and outside of class.

Assignment Policies:

Attendance is extremely important. One absence can set you back, especially on a block schedule. There will be several group related assignments and projects that will be difficult to make up on an individual level.

1. Assignments should be turned in, prior to the end of class, on the due date.
Per BCHS School policy, late work will NOT be accepted.
In extreme circumstances, the teacher reserves the right to accept late work for up to 50% credit.
2. Absences –
 - If **YOU** miss class, **YOU** are responsible for obtaining any missed assignments.
 - It is expected that **YOU** check bocaciega.org **BEFORE** you come to ask about missing work.
 - The student has the number of absent days to hand in the missed assignment. **It is the student's responsibility to obtain and turn in missed assignments! A zero will go in the grade book in place of the missed assignment until it is completed. After the prescribed number of make-up days has passed, the zero will become permanent.**

Plagiarism / Cheating Policy: The following will be considered plagiarism or cheating on schoolwork and will result in a grade of zero (0), in addition to further disciplinary action:

- Copying work or answers from other students
- Copying word for word from any book or source (without using quotations and giving credit in MLA format)
- Having someone else do your work
- Allowing another student to “borrow” your work and present it as their own

Student Expectations:

1. **Be Prepared.** Come to class on time, with basic materials and ready to learn.
2. **Be Cooperative.** Actively participate in class lessons, activities, and group work. Stay on task!
3. **Be Responsible.** Complete all assignments on time. Study for assessments.
4. **Be Diligent.** Work from bell to bell. The teacher will dismiss class, not the bell.
5. **Be Respectful.** Be respectful of yourself, others, and the classroom.

We need to cover a large amount of content this year. State graduation assessments have become more rigorous. Therefore, behavior that is rude/disrespectful, including inappropriate language/comments, will NOT be tolerated.

Class Expectations:

- Restroom: The pass will be located next to the front door. Only one person allowed out at a time, for a maximum of 5 minutes. Each student can only leave once, per class. If abused, passes will be restricted. No passes distributed, or used, during the first or last ten minutes of class.
- Cell Phones & Electronics are prohibited during instructional time. They must remain off and out of sight.
- No food, drinks, and/or chewing gum are allowed in the classroom. Clear bottled water is allowed.
- All Fundamental SWAS students will conduct themselves in accordance with the program's behavior, dress code and academic expectations at all times.
 - Those who violate the dress code will be sent to an administrator and receive a consequence.
- The Boca Ciega tardy policy will be strictly enforced.
 - Periods 1-2: Report directly to class, without administrative intervention. However, your 3rd tardy will begin an MTSS thread that results in your administrator will be notified and summoning you.
 - Periods 3-8: No student will be admitted after the late bell, without appropriate documentation from an administrator. (The consequence is usually an hour detention.)

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- An electronic attachment of this course syllabus can be accessed on the school’s website (www.bocaciega.org) by:
 - Clicking on the “Academics” tab.
 - Selecting “Lesson Plans”.
 - Using the “Search by Teacher & Date” section to select “Mrs. Nicholas” and “August 13th or 14th”
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact me anytime questions and/or concerns arise regarding student progress.
- Grades and attendance will be available and updated regularly through <https://focus.pcsb.org/>
- If a student **chooses** not to follow any of the expectations outlined in this syllabus, along with a call home, a **consequence** process will begin immediately. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- The teacher reserves the right to change course requirements, expectations, content, and grading policies, with administrative approval and sufficient written notice to the students and parents.

English I Honors Syllabus Signature Directions: Return the bottom portion of this page, signed and completed to Mrs. Nicholas, no later than the **three** class days after it has been distributed.

Syllabus Due Date: ___/___/___

Student Section: I have read the syllabus and agree to put forth my best effort in class by following all rules, procedures, and course expectations.

_____ Student Name (*Please Print*) _____ Class Period

_____ Student’s E-Mail Address

_____ Student’s Signature _____ Date

Parent/Guardian Section: I have read and understand the syllabus for English and agree that my child will be held accountable for performance and evaluation according to its contents.

_____ Parent/Guardian’s Signature

_____ Parent/Guardian’s Name (*Please Print*)

_____ Parent/Guardian’s Primary Contact Number

_____ Other Number(s) – please specify type

_____ Parent/Guardian E-mail Address

_____ Relationship to student

_____ Date

My child is allowed to watch PG & PG-13 movies that are related to course content

YES

NO