

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Brittany Cummings

ROOM: 316

PLAN: 3rd Hour

TELEPHONE: (785) 330-2246

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LAWRENCE FREE STATE HIGH SCHOOL/9th Grade English Syllabus

Please hold on to this syllabus all semester.

WELCOME! As your teacher, I am so excited to welcome you to this class. I want this to be a positive learning environment for you, one that empowers you to explore new points of view and expand your perspectives about the world around you.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a required course for all 9th grade students. Throughout the semester, students will be exposed to prolific authors of varying backgrounds and strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills during the following units:

1. Who am I?
2. How are we influenced by our personal relationships? What are the interconnections of my choices to society?
3. What is my responsibility to my community?
4. Who do I want to be?

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

We will use Google Classroom in this class. To join the class, first go to classroom.google.com. The class code to join is **p6jgnsd** for 2nd hour and **dpc25ii** for 6th hour.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Writing Utensils
- Laptop
- Highlighter

EXTRA HELP

If you ever need help, I am available by appointment. You are welcome to email me to arrange a time to seek support at brittany.cummings@usd497.org. You can also email me about content that you have missed.

READING MATERIALS

You will read and explore the following:

- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare
- *Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *The Odyssey* by Homer

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

In 9th grade English, excellence, respect, and responsibility will serve as the pillars for the work that we do here. What does that mean?

- 1) Work towards a positive mindset.
- 2) Be prepared.
- 3) Be on time.
- 4) Be an active participant in class discussions..
- 5) Be kind and considerate.

EXCELLENCE

- 1) I expect you to put your best effort into this class. Work hard, challenge yourself, and ask questions.
 - You will be expected to actively participate in class; you will be expected to read outside of class and keep up with assigned reading dates; you will be expected to discuss the readings; you will be expected to write.
 - Entering and Leaving the Classroom:
 - i) Find your assigned seat.
 - ii) Be prepared to begin each lesson with three to five minutes of [mindful breathwork](#).
 - iii) At the end of class, please remain seated, and do not begin to pack up prior to the bell ringing unless instructed to do so. Please pick up after yourself, and throw trash in the trash cans and recyclables in the recycle bin before you leave.
 - (1) If you have permission from Ms. Cummings to leave during the class period, take the hall pass with you.

RESPECT

- 2) I expect you to treat others in this classroom with respect.
 - You will demonstrate respect by listening and paying attention when I give directions and call the class to attention; you will demonstrate respect by listening to your classmates and their ideas; you will be respectful of everyone's right to learn, and the teacher's right to teach, by not being disruptive.
 - Respect all people, all places, all things, and all ideas.
 - Be kind.
 - Be present - physically and mentally.
 - You are expected to focus on the work at hand, listen respectfully (during instruction time or group work), participate in class, and be a good person.
 - Pictures or video recordings are not permitted without teacher consent.
 - (1) If you cannot do these things, you will recognize the problem and regulate it by placing your phone in the cell phone box at the front of the room (or you will be directed to place your phone in the box).

RESPONSIBILITY

- 3) I expect you to demonstrate responsibility.
 - You will be responsible for arriving to class on time, bringing necessary materials, turning in assignments on time, and getting make-up work if you are absent.
 - It is your responsibility to discuss concerns, grades, or assignments with me.

Late Work and Absences

Please turn in your work on the day it is due: it helps you to stay on track. I do accept late work through the end of the current unit, but I take off points for each class period the assignment is late. If you are absent, you are responsible for getting make-up work from me.

Technology and Headphones

We will use technology for educational purposes only. You are expected to avoid having your phone out during class. Please have your Macbook out only when we are using it for class. You may listen to music, with headphones/earbuds, during writing time and individual work time. You may not listen to music during class instruction, reading time, or during group work time.

Food and Drink

Please avoid bringing food into the classroom. You may discuss special circumstances with me. You may bring a drink into the classroom only if it has a lid on it.

GRADES

A 100% - 94%	B+ 89.9% - 87%	C+ 79.9% - 77%	D+ 69.9% - 67%	F <60%
A- 93.9% - 90%	B 86.9% - 83%	C 76.9% - 73%	D 66.9% - 63%	
	B- 82.9% - 80%	C- 72.9% - 70%	D- 62.9% - 60%	

Cheating/plagiarism is never acceptable at any time. It results in a student conference with the teacher, a zero grade for the assignment, and a parent meeting and/or office referral. Your grade will be determined by your effort. Hard work, persistence, and attitude are the keys to success in 9th grade English.

SEMESTER OUTLINE

August-October: Introductory activities; Introduce Unit 1; Summative Unit 1 assessment

October-December: Introduce Unit 2; Summative Unit 2 assessment

January-March: Introduce Unit 3; Summative Unit 3 assessment

April-May: Introduce Unit 4; Summative Unit 4 assessment

ONE LAST THING... HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SEMESTER! *Ms. Cummings*

August 22, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you and your family enjoyed the summer break. I will be instructing your student this semester in 9th grade English, and I'm so excited!

Please take a few moments to review the syllabus with your child. It contains my expectations, materials needed for class, what we will be reading, and how your student will be earning his/her/their grade.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have, or to bring to my attention any special requests or needs you'd like for me to address. I look forward to working with you and hope to see you at one of Free State's many opportunities to meet your student's teacher soon.

Kindest Regards,

Brittany Cummings
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Lawrence, KS 66049
785-330-2246

brittany.cummings@usd497.org

Webex meeting: <https://usd497.webex.com/meet/pr26221904340>; please email me first to set up a meeting.

Acknowledgement of receipt and review of syllabus

(Student Signature)

Date

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Daytime Phone Number)

Date