

**English 9**  
**Course: 1142 – College Prep**  
**2010/11 Syllabus**

Ms. Scott  
vscott@wssd.org

---

**Course Title:** Introduction to Literary Analysis and Academic Writing

**Course Description:** This course has a dual focus. The curriculum provides extensive direct instruction in persuasive and expository writing, essay structure, syntax, grammar, and mechanics. The curriculum also includes the study of four major works of Western literature: *The Odyssey*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *Lord of the Flies*.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will demonstrate competency in the following skill areas related to writing:

- Developing and supporting a thesis with strong content and clear organization
- Utilizing revision and editing techniques to improve style
- Identifying and correcting usage, style, punctuation, and capitalization errors
- Identifying and revising faulty syntax and sentence structure
- Utilizing persuasive and rhetorical devices
- Utilizing, evaluating, and documenting primary and secondary sources
- Facility in the three modes of academic writing

Students will also demonstrate competency in the following skill areas related to the study of literature:

- Reading strategies for comprehension and analysis
- Identifying and analyzing literary themes
- Making personal and general connections to literature
- Identifying and analyzing uses of literary devices
- Identifying and analyzing literary styles and forms

**Writing Texts:** *Evergreen: A Guide to Writing*, by Susan Fawcett and Alvin Sandberg; *SHHS Language Arts Handbook*, published by the SHHS ninth-grade English teachers.

## **Course Outline**

### **Summer Reading**

**Literature focus:** summer reading text

**Literature topics:** elements of literature, vocabulary, Bloom's taxonomy

**Writing topics:** the five steps of the writing process, topic sentences, well-developed paragraphs, the essay, responding to a prompt, developing a thesis, supporting a thesis, writing summaries, following a rubric, plagiarism, call-to-action conclusions

**Grammar/mechanics focus:** parts of speech, commonly confused words, possessives, general MLA format

**Required writings:** persuasive essay on summer reading/ summary

over →

### ***The Odyssey***

**Readings:** *The Odyssey*, excerpts from Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, selected short stories and poetry

**Literature focus:** effective reading strategies, epic poetry, heroes and "anti-heroes," selected vocabulary, research in mythology, irony, foils, allusions, parodies

**Writing focus:** business letters, effective openings, quote weaving, MLA citation, journal writing, in-class (timed) essays vs. take-home essays

**Grammar/ mechanics focus:** punctuation of clauses, sentence types and common sentence errors, titles, quotation punctuation, capitalization, verb tense, consistency and parallelism

**Required writings:** informational essay/ business letter

### **The Individual vs. Society**

**Readings:** *Inherit the Wind* and non-fiction readings related to the Scopes Trial

**Literature focus:** characters and characterization, elements of modern drama, satire, vocabulary

**Writing focus:** developing content, writing effective conclusions for informational essays

**Grammar/ mechanics focus:** common errors in pronoun usage, subject-verb agreement

**Required writing:** essay on literary analysis: character, language, or theme

### **Shakespeare**

**Readings:** *Romeo and Juliet*, excerpt from *The Art of Courtly Love*, and selected sonnets

**Literature focus:** researching Shakespeare's life and times, Shakespeare's language, figurative language, poetic scansion and terminology, sonnets, vocabulary, symbolism

**Writing focus:** improving essay content and organization, personal narrative essays, smaller creative pieces (character diary, legal brief for Romeo's punishment, sonnets)

**Grammar/ mechanics focus:** appositives, comma clinic

**Required writing:** literary analysis essay on theme or classification essay related to *Romeo and Juliet*/ personal narrative essay

### **What Is a Leader?**

**Reading:** *Lord of the Flies* and related non-fiction readings

**Literature focus:** review of theme, symbolism, allegory, and irony; vocabulary

**Writing focus:** essay recap: the 3 types of essays, what makes an essay effective

**Grammar/ mechanics focus:** avoiding wordiness, minor marks of punctuation, active vs. passive voice

**Required writing:** final exam essay