2012-2013 Course Syllabus

Ms. Lagomarsino

English 9

# **Contact Information:**

# Room: 408

# Phone: 619-522-8907 x2408

Email: [ms.englishteach@gmail.com](mailto:ms.englishteach@gmail.com) (this one goes to my phone and will result in the quickest response) OR [breanne\_lagomarsino@coronado.k12.ca.us](mailto:breanne_lagomarsino@coronado.k12.ca.us) (during business hours this is the best to use)

Class Website/blog: [www.mslago.weebly.com](http://www.mslago.weebly.com) (assignments posted here! Please see the class website when you are absent)

**Course Description:** This course is designed to continue the high school students’ understanding of the English language and the Literature Arts, while increasing their analytical and comprehension skills to meet the Common Core Standards for the 9th grade. Students will study a variety of texts including fiction, nonfiction, short stories, and poetry. Students will also increase their vocabulary, grammar and writing skills through this course.

**Course Essential Question:** How can being a critical thinker, intelligent reader and proficient writer help to empower us in our world?

**Readings** (subject to change): *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Lord of the Flies*, various short stories, literature circle unit consisting of various fiction and nonfiction texts, and various Myths

**Behavioral Expectations:**

I expect all of my students to behave with respect towards every person in the classroom. I will not tolerate disrespect in any form. This is school. You are here to learn. I am here to teach. Any time you disrupt this, others are made to suffer as well, and I will not tolerate this. Being disrespectful and disruptive in the classroom will result in a phone call home, detention, student teacher conference or a class suspension. I will choose the best “punishment” to fit the “crime”.

*Class Rules*

Respect everyone

No I-pods or cell phones

Be ready to work when the bell rings

Clean up after yourself

**Academic Expectations:**

* Students are required to keep a journal. This needs to be brought to class *everyday*. Daily writing assignments will be kept here. The journal will be graded periodically (sometimes announced the day before, so make sure all assignments are always up to date) and will be a part of your writing grade. Many writing topics will encourage you to be creative and have fun with your writing.
* Students are required to blog every other week (the blog is on the class website). A new blog topic will be posted on Monday during a blogging week. Students need to respond to the blog by Wednesday at midnight. Students then need to respond to one of their classmates by Friday (at midnight) of that same week. The first blog will be posted on 8/27. Blogs are one of your on-going homework assignments throughout the school year and will count as 10 points every other week (5 per response). Students will be well informed about when the blogs will occur. Further information about blog posts is on the website.
* Students are required to complete independent reading of their choice or Silent Sustained Reading (SSR). Every grading period (generally every 6 weeks), students need to read at least 250 pages of a book of their choice, the only grade involved is the number of pages read and discussed with Ms. Lagomarsino. This will count as part of your homework/class work grade. See the SSR handout for more information on this program.
* Students are required to participate in writing response groups 2x a month. Writing response groups will allow students to focus on their own writing and share their writing with others. Writing response group participation will be essential to your writing grade. More information about writing response groups will be shared in class.
* All English teachers require their students to submit major writing assignments to turnitin.com, a plagiarism identification web site. Students who do not submit assignments to turnitin.com will not be graded and will be penalized for late work when submitted late to the website. Before your first writing assignment is due we will go over turnitin.com and I will give you all of the class ID’s and passwords needed.

*Grading Scale:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A**  **Advanced** | 90-100% | Student **shows** **mastery beyond expected standards**. Student work shows purposeful manipulation of language, creativity, and intelligent application of skills, understandings, and knowledge. |
| **B**  **Proficient** | 80-89% | Student **shows proficiency within most expected standards**. Student work shows strong grasp of academic standards. |
| **C**  **Basic** | 70-79% | Student **shows basic proficiency of class standards**. Student work may be cursory in nature, or reveal gaps in skills, understandings, and knowledge. |
| **D**  **Below Basic** | 60-69% | Student shows serious gaps in proficiency of class standards. Student work may be continually incomplete, or reveal serious gaps in skills, understanding, and knowledge. |
| **F** | 59% or lower | Student **has not grasped the majority of the class standards** and/or may not be completing major assignments. |

*Grading*

Please view your grades through edline on a weekly basis. (Parents please do this too!) Grades will be updated at least every other week. Save all hard copies of your work when it has been graded in case there may be a discrepancy in a grade.

Final grades are determined by the following percentages:

35%Writing

25% Homework/Classwork

30% Tests/quizzes: There will be a vocabulary quiz every Friday. If you

are absent for this and it is an excused absence you have 2 days to make up the test.

10% Participation/Citizenship: Frequent tardiness will count in a

deduction of 2 points, as will not having your materials for class.

You can earn points for sharing your writing in our author’s chair (10 points each time, you must do this at least 2x per semester for a total of 20 points), and sharing out your journals at the beginning of class (5 points each time, you must do this 4x per semester for a total of 20 points). You can also earn points at various times throughout the year for participated in class discussions.

*Late Work*

Late work will not be accepted, unless the office has excused the

absence. Major papers and projects can be turned in late, but will be reduced by

one grade letter for each day it is turned in late.

*Absences*

All absences must be cleared with the office. You will miss major information and interesting discussions in class if you are absent. You will find it hard to complete the work if you have not been in class, so you need to be in class EVERYDAY. It is your responsibility to talk to me about any work you have missed when you were absent. I will not approach you about work missed! The first thing you should do if you are absent is ask a friend what we did in class, and then check the website. You can also email me at the email address above. DO NOT come to talk with me about your missing work during class. If you have an unexcused absence, work from this time cannot be made up. If you have an excused absence you have 48 hours to make up any tests you may have missed, and 24 hours (for every school day missed) to make up any assignments. Missing work will reflect as a zero in the gradebook. All planned absences longer than 4 days will need an independent study contract.

*Cheating and Plagiarism*

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in my classroom and will result in an automatic zero. There will also be a referral made to the administration and a phone call home.

CHS Plagiarism Statement: Plagiarism is the use of any idea or phrasing of an idea traceable to a single source without proper acknowledgment, and constitutes the most egregious transgression committed by a writer. Structuring a paraphrased piece of written work after another author’s piece is another form of plagiarism. Your teachers will discuss the specifics of plagiarism in class and how to avoid unwittingly committing it. If you have questions about whether or not what you have written or used in a class assignment constitutes plagiarism, always ask.

*Required Class Materials*

-Composition book (for your journal)

-Binder with the following 5 tabs: vocabulary, grammar, my writing, handouts,

graded work

-pens/pencils

-binder paper

**English 9 Syllabus Acknowledgement**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this page to Ms. Lagomarsino stating that you have read and you understand the expectations and requirements listed within the syllabus. You will need to KEEP THIS SYLLABUS in your binder for easy reference. Another copy of the syllabus has been placed on the website.

Please initial the following, signifying that you have read and understand the following requirements:

\_\_I understand that I must blog 2x a month

\_\_I understand that SSR is an on-going assessment due every 6 weeks (at the end of each grading period). Make-up assignments and late book-talks are NOT given. I understand that it is my responsibility to sign up with Ms. Lagomarsino for a book-talk appointment. I understand that if I miss my appointment for my book-talk, this will result in a zero for that grading period.  
\_\_I understand that I must have all of my materials and be on time.

\_\_I understand that NO late work is accepted.

I have read and I understand all requirements in the syllabus and will try to the best of my ability to adhere to them.

**Student signature**

I have read and I understand all requirements in the syllabus and will try to the best of my ability to help my student adhere to them.

**Parent signature**