

**Mr. Richard Geib**  
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*9th grade English*  
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## **English 9 Syllabus**

9<sup>th</sup> grade English at Foothill Community High School is designed to train students to communicate through the written and spoken word, as well as to analyze and appreciate literature. Students will learn the writing process from brainstorming all the way to a final copy of an essay after various drafts; students will see writing as not a “single shot affair,” but as a “work in progress” which can always be improved upon. Students will study the conventions of grammar, essay structure, and thesis statement. Students will read literature and learn to study closely an author’s theme, characterization, style, and conflict. Students will learn how to work in groups and make presentations in front of a group. The emphasis is, however, clearly placed on developing powerful reading and writing skills through expansion of vocabulary and increasing written fluency in standard academic English.

FTHS English curriculum corresponds to both Ventura Unified and California State standards – and special attention is paid to aligning to Common Core practices.

### **Books and Other Materials:**

1. The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope, by William Kamkwamba
2. Lord of the Flies, by William Golden
3. 1984- George Orwell
4. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature Text
5. To Kill a Mockingbird- Harper Lee
6. Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
7. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature Text
8. “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare
9. Various media products (commercials, print advertisements, etc.)

*Come to class with the proper supplies every day. Do not forget!*

### **Grading Scale:**

93-100 = A  
90-92 = A-  
87-89 = B+  
83-86 = B

80-82 = B-  
77-79 = C+  
73-76 = C  
70-72 = C-  
67-69 = D+  
63-66 = D  
60-62 = D-  
0-59 = F

Grades will be based on tests, quizzes, homework, projects, and class participation. Extra credit will be used at the teacher's discretion but will not be able to raise a grade more than 1/3 (i.e. From B to B+, or C+ to B-).

Students are responsible for knowing and following the rules and procedures stated in the school handbook. Cheating or plagiarism violate the school code and will not be tolerated. Any such violations of the school code may result in loss of credit for the assignment or be referred to the administration for further action. If you are unsure about how to avoid possible plagiarism in your work, please ask Mr. Geib for help.

### **Expectations:**

Students should come to class and ready to pay attention, work hard, and learn to read, write, and think critically. Students should arrive prepared, obey the class rules, complete their homework, and perform well on tests, writing assignments, and long-term projects. Students should listen attentively, and participate in class discussions and activities. These expectations can be summed up as follows:

- **Come to class**
- **Pay attention**
- **Do your work**
  - **Behave**

Although they require commitment, discipline, and hard work, these goals are simple. Your final grades will reflect your ability to fulfill these goals which are important not only in school but in life generally. Mr. Geib wishes all his students good luck this school year!

Mr. Geib does not expect perfection from my students; nevertheless, he does expect that *all* students honestly strive to do their best to fulfill their potential. Above all Mr. Geib endeavors never to waste his student's time; he hopes you will not waste his. Do your best in class and both teacher and student can rest content with the results. If both put forth their best effort honestly and patiently, teacher and students can feel in their exhaustion at the end of the year a deep satisfaction and sense of accomplishment – knowing the time together was

well spent and that significant learning and growth had taken place. This is the goal.

## **Behavior:**

Students need to obey class rules, be honest, and treat their peers with respect. Students are in school to study and learn and not to fight or fool around. If a student does not heed warnings as to violations of class rules, the situation will bring the involvement of parents and school administrators. **Much of the work in English 9 will be done in groups; students must treat their peers with respect and conscientiousness.** Students need to obey class rules, be honest, and treat their peers as they wish to be treated themselves. Students are in school to study and learn and not to fight or fool around. You do not have to be best friends with your fellow students in English class, but you need to be able to collaborate successfully with them.

Class rules apply when a substitute teacher is present. Again, to succeed in school each day you need to follow: **come to class, pay attention, do your work, and behave.** If not easy, it is at least simple.

## **Work Habits:**

Work habits consist of effort in class, completion of homework, neatness in all work, and coming to class with supplies. In each grading period, students can miss **one** homework assignment without it affecting their grade. Mr. Geib does not ask for perfection from students, but he does expect consistency and the best possible effort. In particular:

- Students must pay attention in class to lectures and keep up with the various assignments and group activities. Work habits often directly correspond to a student's grade.
- Students are responsible for bringing books, materials, and planners to school each day. Students must arrive to class on time and be ready to learn. Failure to do so will be reflected in a lowering of student's grade.
- Students are required to strive to work successfully and amicably with other students in class.
- Students should arrive to class on-time. Students should finish any food or drinks before entering class. Eating and drinking is not permitted during class session.
- Students should treat the computers with respect and not violate any of the acceptable use policies with regards to their use.

Unusual incidents such as illness in the family or other unforeseen emergencies will of course be taken into account with respect to student work. Students should speak with Mr. Geib and inform him of any situations which might interfere with student's ability to do his/her work.

Mr. Geib is available to meet with students almost every day during lunch or break to discuss student concerns. Please come talk to him if you have any worries, problems, or questions.

### **Absences:**

Students have as many days as they were absent to make-up work. For example, if a student misses two days of class they have two days to make-up the work. Mr. Geib will hold relevant materials for students. However, he will not hold the material for extended periods of time. It is the **student's responsibility** to make-up all work; upon your return from being absent, please come see Mr. Geib to get make-up materials. Absence is not a valid excuse for a failure to complete class assignments in the allotted make-up time.

A student with **EIGHT (8) tardies** or **EIGHT (8) uncleared absences** in one semester in any class will be removed from that class upon the 8<sup>th</sup> absence/tardy, and given an "F" grade at the end of the semester. Special circumstances must be cleared with the Principal.