

KAMEHAMEHA SECONDARY SCHOOL

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

COURSE SUMMARY FOR ENGLISH NINE FOR: MRS. J. PACARRO SCHOOL YEAR 2011 - 2012

OVERVIEW

By exploring a variety of literature selections, students will improve reading skills and comprehension, increase vocabulary, review capitalization and punctuation, and learn the fundamentals of literary analysis. Reading selections will include fiction, nonfiction articles, poetry, and drama. Students will also employ their creative, analytical, and research skills in various compositions, with special emphasis on the essay of classification and the essay of illustration.

COURSE GOALS

Reading

You will:

- read a variety of literary selections by men and women writers from different cultures and different time periods.
- note recurring universal themes in assigned literary selections, especially the idea of "The Journey."
- employ pre-reading techniques to enhance your interest in and personal association with the subject matter.
- learn reading skills appropriate for locating specific information and critical evaluation.
- recognize and explain the significance of figurative language.
- expand your vocabulary through extensive reading and assigned word study which stresses synonyms, antonyms, word analogies, and usage.

Writing

You will:

- use the Writing Process (pre-writing, composing, revising) with special emphasis on experimenting with various pre-writing techniques (brainstorming, idea clustering, freewriting, etc.) before starting a focused piece of writing.
- produce three-part essays which introduce a thesis, offer well-developed support for that thesis, and conclude in an appropriate manner.
- learn and apply the components of the essay of classification and the essay of illustration.
- utilize sound writing skills on study questions and tests, such as wording the first sentence of answers so the reader knows the question asked.
- review and apply the rules of capitalization and punctuation in all writings.

Research Skills

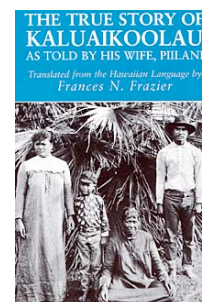
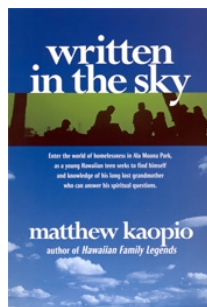
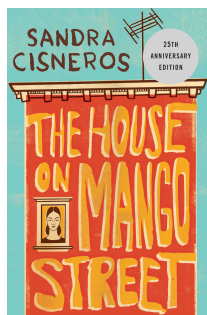
You will:

- after being oriented to the library and its features, use the computer/bibliographies to locate appropriate materials on an assigned and/or voluntary basis.
- when necessary or required, gather information on note cards and document its source using proper bibliographic format.

COURSE MATERIALS

(All assigned books are available in our school store)

- Grade 9 Writing Portfolio (for new students must be purchased through the school bookstore.)
- Cisneros, Sandra. House on Mango Street. (3rd Quarter)
- Ka'opi'o, Matthew. Written in the Sky (3rd Quarter)
- Frazier, Francis N., translator. The True Story of Kaluaikoolau, as Told by His Wife, Piilani. Lihue: The Kauai Historical Society, 2001. (4th Quarter – purchase is optional)
- Shakespeare, William. Romeo and Juliet. **Please buy the No Fear Shakespeare version from SparkNotes.** (4th Quarter) This can be purchased in the school store or at local bookstores; see below for cover.



- Flash drive (to be used for saving papers, projects, etc.)
- Other materials may be assigned as needed

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Student Will:

1. Follow all rules outlined in the Student Handbook.
2. Be on time, ready, and seated before the bell rings.
3. **Come to class PREPARED.** Be ready to learn: bring your computer, textbook(s), pen, paper, and notebook to class.
4. Participate in class discussions, writing groups, and small group activities.
5. Show **respect at all times** to classmates and instructor.
6. Honor deadlines.
7. Be responsible for making up any work missed during an absence.
8. Attend assigned study sessions and seek help when necessary.
9. **Enjoy yourself!** Come to class with a positive attitude, and your experience in this course will be wonderful.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades can be accessed via KS Connect at anytime

The grade for each quarter is divided into four parts:

- 20% Homework/class work/group activities
- 10% Class Participation/Presentations
- 20% Tests/Quizzes/Formal Presentations
- 50% Papers/Essays and all Research projects/papers

The grade for each of the two quarters in the semester counts 40% and the final examination counts 20% of the overall semester grade.

The grading scale: The policies concerning the grading scale, make-up work, and the effect of attendance on grades follow those outlined in the Student Handbook.

Writing Grading Policy:

All writing pieces and projects must be turned in to complete this course. Students will fail this course if any writing is missing because of the grade weight of all major writing/papers/projects.

Absences—excused or otherwise—do not excuse writing/papers/projects from being late.

***Students may have parents drop off papers, email or fax their work the same day they are absent without penalty. *** E-mail: jspacarr@ksbe.edu Fax: 843-3351

Late Work Policy

Overnight Reading and Other Homework Assignments

As the term says, *overnight* reading and other homework assignments are just that: additional work that is accomplished at home during one evening of study. Overnight homework is due at the start of your regular class period. **If it is not completed on time, it will receive a grade of zero.**

Major Writing Assignments or Projects

(Other than overnight homework)

If any major Writing Assignment (essay and research paper and/or project) is not turned in on the assigned due date, the following Late Work Policy will be put into effect.

1. For every day late, there will be a reduction of 10% of the possible points available for the assignment, i.e. a 100 point assignment would lost 10 points per day it is late, until no points are possible. For example: paper due on Monday turned in on Wednesday earns an 82% -- the official grade will be a 62%.
2. All work should be turned in during the class period to be considered on time.
3. Notes from parents or teachers do not circumvent the late work policy. It is the student's responsibility to get work in on time-- not a parent, computer or teacher's responsibility.

RESPONSIBILITY for submitting assignments/tests on time rests with the STUDENT. There are occasions when students are present in school but absent from a particular class, for example...

- ...ill at Hale Ola;
- ...conference with counselor;
- ...conference with unit administrator;
- ...medical/dental or other type of appointment;

...field trip or other school-related activity;
...tardy to school.

Such absences do not excuse you from submitting your assignment/test to the instructor that day. If you are present in school for any portion of the day an assignment/test is due, you must take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that your assignment/test reaches your instructor that day.

Extra Credit Information:

Extra Credit is rarely given. Keeping up with daily as well as major assignments is essential.

Policy on absent/make-up work:

Students have the same amount of days they were absent to complete assignments. Extra time can be negotiated with the teacher depending on the circumstance/severity of the absence. If the work is not made up in the time agreed upon, the grades for missing assignments will be ZEROES. When a student is absent: It is the student's responsibility to make up work, to find out about missed work and to make up exams. If the student fails to make arrangements with me about work missed-- their zero will stand.

- Tests must be made up the day they return.
- Any homework due during their absence from class is due when they return.
- Papers/writing/projects are due even if the student is absent—see Writing Grading Policy.
- If work is assigned before an absence and due either the day of the absence or the day of return—that assignment is **still due** upon the students return to class.
- Students can often keep up with class work and assignments when they are absent by using the class website.

Study Help:

Students may come to get study help as needed at a time agreed upon by teacher and student. Students are encouraged to make appointments for meeting with me during a mutual free period, during study help hours or after school at any time.

Policy on Plagiarism:

A student caught plagiarizing will receive a zero for the assignment and be referred to the Vice Principal.

Consequences for plagiarizing include: parent and counselor notification and conduct probation. Plagiarism includes: Copying homework, class work and essays; mosaic or paraphrasing; using ideas from other students/adults/sources and simply **not citing your sources**.

How to contact Mrs. Pacarro:

Office: Pāki 101
School FAX: 843-3351
E-mail: jspacarr@ksbe.edu

This syllabus and all other course information is now available on the class blackboard account as well as our class blog: <http://blogs.ksbe.edu/jspacarr>

Please feel free to contact me at anytime. Email is always best!