**9th Grade English 1-2 FAQ**

**P.R.I.D.E. Night 2014**

**Mr. Davis**

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What is your background?This is my fourteenth year here at Gunderson. I teach English 1-2 and A.P. Literature and Composition. I have taught a wide range of classes, from English Language Learners (E.L.L.’s) and struggling readers to A.P. Literature. I have spent well over 10,000 hours in the classroom. My current academic focus is moving my students beyond the formulaic five-paragraph essay in preparation for sophisticated, and demanding college-level writing. I like to infuse English lessons with connections to rhetoric, history, and philosophy. I differentiate my instruction to allow for my students’ various interests, skill sets, and experiences. I have served as Gunderson’s English Language Development (ELD) Coordinator and as the English Department Chair. I have also served as the site’s head union representative for the San Jose Teacher’s Association (SJTA). I am an avid photographer and voracious reader. I like to photograph low-light scenes, landscapes, architecture, and musicians. My favorite authors are Ernest Hemingway, Kurt Vonnegut, and Phillip K. Dick.

How can you help?Encouraging your son or daughter to read as much as possible would be a great benefit to the class. If they do not already have a public library card, I recommend getting one so that your son or daughter can improve his or her reading ability. If you have email, please give me your address so we can keep in contact.

“English 1-2 is a standards-based course designed to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading comprehension, language usage and writing, literary analysis, and critical thinking. Students develop those skills that enable them to demonstrate their understanding and appreciation of literary works through the use of several writing forms. Additional skills, such as conflict resolution, active learning techniques and pre-writing skills enhance the students’ development as learners. The SJUSD core literature selections for this course include: The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet and Of Mice and Men. The course is designed to help students develop communicative skills in preparation for English 3-4.

Prerequisite: None

All Schools

* Meets University Entrance Requirements: CSU, UC (“b”, “g”)”
* Description from SJUSD Course Catalog 2014-2015

Continued on reverse side.

Absences/Make-up Work:

No late work will be accepted expect for excused absences and dire emergencies.

See attached block schedule make-up policy for further details.

Excused Absences (I check absence cards) You have as many days as you were absent to complete and turn in make up work, e.g., absent Monday = Monday’s Homework is due on Wednesday.

Grades:

Materials: book, etc. 10%

Homework/Class work 20%

Quizzes 10%

Essays/Presentations 20% (5 per semester, minimum)

Unit Assessments 25% (5 per semester, minimum)

Finals 15% (Last Unit and comprehensive)

\*Mr. Davis reserves the right to change the grading structure.

Sequence of Common Core State Standards Based Units:

Semester 1

Unit 1: Developing Narrative

Unit 2: Retelling Tales

Unit 3:  Researching, Writing Argument

Semester 2

Unit 4: Presentation

Unit 5: Evaluating Rhetoric

Unit 6: Coming Back to Fiction: Character Analysis

Student Learning Objectives:

You will increase your ability to understand literature.

You will improve your analytical skills of writing and language skills.

You will be encouraged to appreciate and understand the major literary forms,

read widely, and recognize and use the various levels of language appropriately.

You will develop self-reliance while working independently on long-term projects

You will develop poise while using technology to present information.

Is there homework?

Homework will be given to practice new skills once students have demonstrated proficiency in class. Students can expect homework at least every other class session.