

Ninth-Grade English, Part 2

Syllabus



Course Description

Welcome to Ninth-Grade English, Part 2! You will explore the course theme of **Freedom of Speech and Censorship**. The course is divided into 15 modules of instruction. Module 16 is the final exam.

- The three main ideas this course will address include the following:
 - **What is Censorship? What is Dystopia?**
These questions focus on defining what censorship and dystopia are, choosing a dystopian novel, and using reading strategies to decipher texts as credible or not.
 - **Exploring Freedom Through Dystopian Literature**
We'll read short stories and other texts exploring freedom of speech and censorship.
 - **Argumentation and the Media**
You will read with a critical lens, write an argumentative essay, conduct research, and explore the power of the media.

Prerequisite

Ninth-Grade English, Part 1 (ENGL-041) or equivalent.

Course Materials and Technology

You will choose ONE dystopian novel from the following list to read:

1. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry ISBN: 978-0007141425
2. *The Roar* by Emma Clayton ISBN: 978-0439927857
3. *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer ISBN: 978-0689852237.

Note: There is more information about each of the options in Module 1.



Course Learning Outcomes

As students complete the course assignments, they will increase their knowledge, improve 21st-century skills, and develop an attribute.



Knowledge: English 9, Part 2

In this course, *knowledge* refers to the subject matter and content students will learn while completing the readings, practices, quizzes, and assignments.

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- describe censorship and dystopian societies.
- write essays on-demand,
- examine the author's choice, theme, and irony in dystopian literature,
- examine literature and freedom, and
- write an argumentative essay using academic writing, language, and tone.



21st Century Skill: Critical Thinking—Information and Discovery

The **21st-century skill** you will be focusing on for this semester is **Critical Thinking—Information and Discovery**. The four criteria you will learn for this skill include: framing the investigation, asking questions, gathering information, and synthesizing information.



Attribute: Responsibility

The **attribute** you will focus on in this course is **responsibility**. There are various examples drawn from literature and things to think about to help students think of ways to act responsibly. This course focuses on our rights as citizens and free speech.



Grading and Assignments

The letter grade in this course will be based on these assignments and exams.

Grading Table

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
Study Guides	Computer-graded	25%
Assignments (30%) +	Teacher-graded	40%

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
Application Assignments (10%)		
Computer-graded quizzes	Computer-graded	15%
Midcourse Quiz and Final Exam	Computer-graded	20%

Due Dates

The due dates in the course are only suggestions to help the students pace themselves. You do *not* need to complete assignments, quizzes, and exams by the due date set in the course.

Study Guides

Study guides are provided for each module. They will help students focus on the important concepts needed to be successful in this course and in life. Study guides will be due in each module, and points will be awarded upon submission.

Assignments

Tip: The **Overview** pages of each module outline exactly what is due in each module. Do not skip these overview pages, as they are very helpful.

This is an English course, so there are a variety of assignments. Students must think critically and process information to personalize this course and maximize their learning. Most of the assignments require students to think through what they are reading or learning and fill in graphic organizers with specific questions about the content. Some graphic organizers may be annotated notes, which means they can be filled out right there on the Canvas page and submitted. But students can choose the best method for them, and they may download the graphic organizer to their Google Drive or as a Word document and save it and then submit it when it is due.

There are several writing assignments where students communicate their knowledge in a variety of formats: visual, pictures, PowerPoint or Loom presentations, written essays, summaries, responses, etc. Students will have the opportunity to submit assignments in a variety of ways. There are always choices to make in the assignments.

There is also an English Skill Enrichment lesson at the end of each module. These lessons will focus on specific English skills such as vocabulary, reading fluency, writing fluency, grammar, sentence structure, etc. These skill assignments are a fun way to meet the standards for English, and students often have choices about what they complete and how.

NOTE: Most assignments have Turnitin set for flagging plagiarism and will provide students with feedback AFTER their assignments have been graded.

Application Projects

Application projects give the students opportunities to apply the concepts they have learned to real-life situations, scenarios, and events. They also evaluate the students' mastery of the Skill for the course. All application projects have Turnitin set for flagging plagiarism.

There are four application assignments:

- Module 2: Write a Review on Censorship
- Module 7: Comparing and Contrasting Speeches
- Module 11: Compare-Contrast Dystopian Stories Essay
- Module 15: Argumentative Essay Final Draft

Module Quizzes

Quizzes are administered at the end of each module. Each quiz is open-book, open-note, and untimed. They consist entirely of multiple-choice questions and come directly from the lesson material and the videos.

Midcourse Quiz

This computer-graded quiz will cover the material up to the midcourse quiz. The questions on the midcourse quiz will be similar in format to the questions on the final exam.

Proctored Final Exam

Your final exam will be closed-book, closed-note.

Course Grade

The letter grade will be calculated according to these percentages.

Grade Percentages	
Grade Scale	
A	100% – 93%
A–	<93% – 90%
B+	<90% – 87%
B	<87% – 83%
B–	<83% – 80%
C+	<80% – 77%
C	<77% – 73%
C–	<73% – 70%
D+	<70% – 67%
D	<67% – 63%
D–	<63% – 60%

Grade Scale	
F (fail)	<60% – 0%