

TEACHER: Jim Pryal e-mail jpryal@csh.k12.ny.us phone ext. 6914
English office phone: 631 367 6832
Extra help: by appointment

COURSE: English 9 Seminar

NUMBER OF UNITS: Full year, 1 credit

GOALS:

- To encourage critical thinking and discussion skills
- To improve reading comprehension skills through shared inquiry (basic question technique) and vocabulary development through reading & supplementary materials
- To improve all aspects of the writing process (pre-writing, brainstorming, thesis formation, peer editing, revision, and grammatical skills)
- To enhance word processing and research skills through the use of the library and Writing Center
- To promote a lifelong appreciation of words, ideas, and language
- To promote tolerance, understanding, and compassion

METHODS & MATERIALS:

- May be adjusted to meet the needs and abilities of a particular class; however, most of the materials will be from novels, plays, short stories, poems, nonfiction, and film. Representative novelists and playwrights include: Steinbeck, Harper Lee, Golding, Shakespeare, Rose, London, Hemingway; Short Story writers include Poe, O'Flaherty, Gordon, Thurber, Benet, Saroyan, Maupassant, Camus, Deal, Bryan, Keyes, Spatt, Thomas, & Coxe.

Textbooks: *Heath Grammar & Composition (9)*, *McDougell Littell LanguageNetwork Shostak Vocabulary Level D*, *Designs in Fiction, Ten Top Stories*

EXPECTATIONS:

- Preparation on a daily basis
- Participation in class discussions
- Respect for the rights of others
- Regular attendance in class and at writing conferences (when necessary)

GRADING POLICY:

- 1/5 Vocabulary quizzes*
- 3/5 Literature & Writing** (Speech & Grammar 1/5 in some quarters)
- 1/5 Homework & Class Participation
- Final grade is the average of four marking periods and the Regents

*If students are present for all vocabulary quizzes in a marking period, the lowest grade is dropped.

** Students are allowed and encouraged to revise essays that have been punctually submitted to improve skills and grades.

