

*Syllabus for English I  
(Pre-AP Honors ninth grade) SY 2009-2010  
Duke Ellington School of the Arts*

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**Course Philosophy:** Ninth grade is a critical transition for most Ellington students. Pre-AP English is a challenging course that will allow our students to learn to use Advance Placement strategies in writing and reading. Because ninth grade is the first year in preparing for Advanced Placement Language and Literature, students, parents, and educators must work together to ensure success. As an accelerated course, Pre-AP English I, will require outside-the-classroom work and in-class instruction and work. In order for a student to possibly earn college credit, and to gain knowledge and skills needed for college classes, parents and students need to structure time for reading and writing assignments for this class.

What makes “At Level” English class different from Pre-AP English class is the intensity and depth of analysis of fiction and non-fiction works, as well as the high degree of vigor and relevance of coursework that the instructor of a Pre- AP English class can provide. Students will read novels, non-fiction, poetry, and drama in a theme-based format this year. Students will also complete projects using technology, and will conduct research using many sources. Grammar and vocabulary study will help sharpen the student’s reading and writing skills as well.

**Brief Overview of Each Advisory (Nine Weeks)**

- I. Hopes, Dreams, and Reality
- II. The Hero’s Journey
- III. Justice and Equality
- IV. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: The Human Condition

**Ongoing Work**

- Grammar studied within the context of reading and writing as well as lessons from the textbook

- Vocabulary studied within the context of the reading and writing as well as handouts
- MLA formats
- AP-style multiple choice practice
- Timed writing
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### Grading and Evaluation

Evaluation is ongoing everyday. Grades are based on total points with major exams and assignments worth more points than daily assignments.

<b>Level One Evaluation</b> In class journal writing, quick writes, short homework assignments	<b>Symbol</b> Star(s) or stamp(s) that will be recorded
<b>Level Two Evaluation</b> First drafts, behavior, binder checks, timed writing, longer in-class work	<b>Grade</b> ABCD or F (if no there is no effort or work completed)
<b>Level Three Evaluation</b> Major Assignments, exams	<b>Grade</b> Specific points and rubrics will be provided two or more weeks in advance

### Skill Progression Chart- Pre AP Honors English I class

<b>Levels of Thinking</b>					
<b>Remember</b>	<b>Understand</b>	<b>Apply</b>	<b>Analyze</b>	<b>Evaluate</b>	<b>Create</b>
<b>Close Reading</b>		<b>Grammar</b>		<b>Composition</b>	

**Pre-AP students may be exempt from the (fourth Advisory) final exam if they maintain an “A” average in the course all year!**  
**Students will be tested in the beginning and at the end of the year for reading levels and take an end- of- the- year exam**

*\* This syllabus is subject to change during the school year.*

### First Advisory

**Theme: Hopes, Dreams, and Reality**

**Texts**

*Elements of Language*, Third Course  
*Dream from my Father* by Barack Obama  
*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck  
*The Epic of Gilgamesh*  
Short Story Selections  
Non-fiction Selections  
Poetry Selections

- **Major Assignments and Activities:** Summer Reading Assignment, Tests and Exams
- **Grammar:** Parts of Speech, Parts of a Sentence, Review skills as needed
- **Close Reading:** Apply reading skills by MOPE or SOAPstone and other analysis techniques, reading out loud
- **Composition:** Practice writing skills by composing 10-12 sentenced paragraphs and mastering the Five Paragraph Essay

## Second Advisory

### Theme: The Hero's Journey

#### Texts

*Elements of Literature*  
*Elements of Language*  
*The Odyssey* by Homer  
*Mythology* by Edith Hamilton  
*Black Folk Tales* by Julius Lester  
Poetry Selections

- **Major Assignments:** Ancient newspaper, speech, tests, skits based on gods and goddesses on Mount Olympus, exams
- **Grammar:** The Phrase, the clause, review skills
- **Close Reading:** See First Nine Weeks
- **Composition:** Practice writing skills through timed writings

## Third Advisory

### Theme: Justice and Equality

#### Texts

*Elements of Literature*  
*Elements of Language*  
*Antigone* by Sophocles  
*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Poetry Selections  
Non-fiction Selections  
Short Story Selections

- **Major Writing Assignments:** Research an Artist, write a business letter, memorize poetry
- **Grammar:** Agreement, using verbs correctly
- **Close Reading:** Socratic Seminars
- **Composition:** Putting it all together, focus on symbolism, tone, rhetorical devices

#### Fourth Advisory

**Theme: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly; The Human Condition**

#### **Texts**

*Elements of Literature*

*Elements of Language*

*Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare

Poetry Selections

Short Story Selections from Mythology

Non-fiction Selections from magazines

- **Major Assignments:** Literary criticisms on all major works read this year, major group project (a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*), final exam
- **Grammar:** Using pronouns correctly, modifiers
- **Close Reading:** Listening to tapes of *Romeo and Juliet*, viewing films, group work
- **Composition:** Putting it all together, compose original sentences using their previously unknown words, timed essays, group work on major *Romeo and Juliet* project