

## **01001 - Northwest Academy English Language Arts 9 (ELA I) - Semester 2**

*Prerequisites: ELA 9 - Semester 1*

Instructor: Ms. Desiree Kaiser

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Standards: CCSS

Course Location: Edvance360.com/nwa

Course Code: 01001

Northwest Academy's 9<sup>th</sup> grade ELA Semester 2 class is the second half of a year long, two semester course. The course is rooted in the [Common Core Standards](#) and the [MAISA writing units](#) from Oakland and explores ideas about student identity and societal expectations. We will be exploring a variety of texts and writing structures including narratives, informational texts, and argument writing. The year will be focused developing skills students will need for high school English and beyond. In addition to assigned reading, students will be expected to read individually-selected reading books (no less than 7).

I try to always be available to my students and to my students' parents or guardians. If there is ever a concern about assignments, grades, or anything else, or even just a wish to talk, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via email at dkaiser@nwa.edu or by calling 231-547-9000. I am available for meetings before school, after school, or most Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Additionally, all online students (students who do not come on campus on a regular weekly basis) are expected to keep in regular, weekly contact, updating on progress.

Parents and/or guardians, please note that your student will be choosing several, independent, high interest novels to read this year. I ask for your teamwork to be sure that your high schooler is reading nightly, and choosing novels that reflect your family's values. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any concerns. There are numerous, wonderful young adult novels from which they may choose in the Commons Room as well as ones in the school library and the public library.

### **Assigned Texts**

The main texts used for this semester are as follows:

- Forgotten Fire by Adam Bagdasarian
- Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

### **Additional Materials**

Students are expected to also have the following materials:

- Independently selected reading books (at least 7 throughout the semester)
- A Google Drive/Email account with appropriate folders (for submitting free writes and other assignments). All folders must be shared with [dkaiser@nwa.edu](mailto:dkaiser@nwa.edu)
- An account on edvance360.com/nwa (as set up by the school)
- An account at NoRedInk.com
- A flash drive
- Any additional art supplies needed to complete projects (based on student choice), which could include paper, poster board, markers, glue, paint, canvas, etc.

Students will also be required to have a Google Drive account for writing assignments. These are free. Students are to share all assignments with [dkaiser@nwa.edu](mailto:dkaiser@nwa.edu).

### **Expectations**

- Participate in all discussion board questions and be a member of the class community.
- Respect the space, opinions, and feelings of everyone in the class.
- Use any provided time and materials responsibly.
- All work MUST be either in the correct folder in Google Drive and appropriately named or handed in in person. Any work that is not either not located in the correct folder or handed in to the classroom box will not be considered “turned in”. *It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that all work is properly labeled, completed, and turned in.*
- Students are expected to complete all work in a timely manner and to stay in regular contact with the instructor.
- Students are expected to keep regular track of their grades through Powerschool and are reminded that it is not the teacher’s job to chase them down for missing work.
- All online students are to respond to ALL instructor-sent emails in a timely manner (no more than 3 days).

### **Grades/Assessments**

Grades will consist of weekly grammar quizzes, daily assignments, formal essays and projects, informal writing assignments, participation in class and discussion boards, and a final exam at the end of the semester. Extra credit opportunities will be offered at teacher's discretion. Students and parents will be able to view grades at anytime via Powerschool.

All assignments, projects, and tests will be available on the class page on [edvance360.com/nwa](http://edvance360.com/nwa) and will be assigned and graded by the teacher of the class. Unless otherwise specified, all content in a unit is due on the Friday of the week that the unit is assigned.

- Blended learning students: if weekly work is not completed satisfactorily by Friday, a mandatory Wednesday detention will be given. Late work will be accepted up until a month after the work is due. After a month is passed, the assignment, project, or test will count as a zero, no make-ups or exceptions.

- Online students: You are expected to keep up with the class. If work is two weeks or more late, contact will be made with parents. Any work that is a month or more late will not be accepted for credit unless previous arrangements have been made (*before* the due date).
- Tests, Exams, and formal projects: Tests and exams will cover information found in the units. Many questions will be based off of homework questions. Formal projects and essays will be required for finished units. All exams, tests, and formal assignments must be completed before a grade can be given for the course.

### **Late Work**

While some assignments have flexible due dates, others do not. Many of the more major projects and assignments will have a time period during which they will be accepted for full credit. Assignments with due dates (always specified at the beginning of a learning unit, also see below), will be docked 10% each day that it is late, up to a maximum of 50%. Additionally, all assignments leading up to major projects and essays are expected to be completed and turned in *before* the due date of the major project/essay.

### **Academic Support**

Students are encouraged to ask for clarification at any time. Most emails will be responded to within a day if possible. Alternative assignments can be negotiated between the instructor and the student. Due date extensions can also be negotiated in extenuating circumstances. Special education and Title I services are also available based on need.

### **Google Drive**

Students are expected to have and maintain a Google Drive account where they will submit many of their assignments.

Students should have a folder labelled “[Last name first name] - ELA I” that is shared with [dkaiser@nwa.edu](mailto:dkaiser@nwa.edu). Inside their ELA folder, students should have separate folders for Quick Writes, Current Events, Grammar Exercises and units (for instance, the first unit will be on short stories and should have an appropriately labelled folder. This is to help students remain organized.

All documents should include the student’s name either in the title or at the top of the page.

### **Independent Reading**

Students are expected to select **no less than 7** independent reading books to be read alongside assigned reading selections. This is a little under 2 per month. Books should be appropriate for the grade level. Graphic novels can count towards the total, but should be fairly lengthy (so, 14 page monthly issues will not count, but 120 page collections will).

For these independent reading selections, students are to complete the following activities:

- For all books, students will need to submit a list of read (or currently reading) books, twice per semester, via Google Drive. This list should contain the title, author, and a brief synopsis of each book. The first list will be due on **Thursday, March 26th** and should contain no less than 3 books. The revised list will be due on **Friday, May 29th** and should contain no less than 7 books.
- For at least 3 books throughout the semester, students will be expected to complete a review of a book of their choice. This review should include title, author, a brief “teaser” description of the plot and a paragraph or two explaining what the student liked about the book and why it is recommended. These will be due on **Thursday, March 26th, Friday, May 1st, and Friday, May 29th.**
- For at least 2 books throughout the semester, students will be expected to complete a creative project. Projects can be but are not limited to writing an alternative chapter or scene, acting out a favorite part, or illustrating a key scene. These will be due on **Friday, April 10th and Friday, May 29th.**
- *All work may be turned in early. Extra work may be completed for extra credit with instructor approval.*

### **Current Events**

Students are required to complete one current event every two weeks. They are not optional. Current events may be used in conjunction with an ELA class. For more information, please see the [Current Events](#) document.

### **Revisions and Feedback**

Many revision and feedback opportunities are built into the class but students are welcome to submit essays before they are due for additional feedback from me. The essay must be submitted at least 1 full week before the due date (to give me time and to give the student time) and must be accompanied by an explanation detailing what sort of help the student is looking for. Essays must be submitted on Google Drive (or other appropriate website) and accompanied by an email.

Additionally, students are allowed to revise their major projects/papers after the due date and resubmitted for a different grade, up to three weeks later. To receive a new grade, students must address *all* revision suggestions and show significant improvement between one draft and the next. An explanation in paragraph form must accompany the newly submitted project, explaining the student’s thinking during the revision process.

### **Content**

*Unit 1 (Introductory Unit - 1 week)*

- Grammar Pretest

- Performance Task Simulation
- Paragraph and essay writing practice

*Unit 2 (Forgotten Fire - 5 weeks)*

- Study historical fiction and non-fiction texts
- Use close-reading/Talk to the Text/T4/Annotation techniques
- Research related events
- Look at theme and authorial intent
- Use quotes effectively
- Practice Informational writing
- Practice reporting techniques

*Unit 3 (Of Mice and Men- 4 weeks)*

- Theme and other literary techniques
- Informational writing
- Effective research techniques
- MLA citations, use of relevant quotes and other data

*Unit 3 (Romeo and Juliet - 5 weeks)*

- Theme, mood and tone, other literary techniques
- Argument writing
- Adapting a play

*Unit 5 (Independent - 2 weeks)*

- Narrative reading or Non-fiction reading

**Schedule**

The due dates for major projects are as listed below. All due dates have a cut off time of **4:00 PM**. Additionally, all assignments given before each major project/paper are expected to be completed and turned in before the culminating project's due date. *Due dates may change (be extended) at instructor's discretion.*

- Forgotten Fire Culminating Creative or Research Project - Friday, March 6th
- Of Mice and Men - Friday, April 10th
- Romeo and Juliet Argument Essay - Friday, May 22nd
- Independent Reading Unit/Creative Project - Wednesday, June 3rd