



EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY

The School of Rhetoric Grade 9 Humanities Foundations Semester One

Instructor: Mrs. Julia Demakis-Haustein (Mrs. D-H)

Room 1224

(952) 746-7760 ext. 1224

jdemakishaustein@eagleridgeacademy.org

Website: www.mrsdhenglish.weebly.com

Infinite Campus: Check frequently for grades, upcoming homework assignments.

Instagram: Follow the account for English class reminders.

Mrs. D-H - @ERA_DH

*“In reading great literature I become a thousand men and yet remain myself . . .
I see with a myriad of eyes, but it is still I who see.” — C.S. Lewis, *An Experiment in Criticism**

Humanities Foundations 9 is a modified installment of the first year of Eagle Ridge Academy’s Humanities program. Using the same texts and pedagogical techniques as its Humanities 9 counterpart, the Foundations course is designed to adjust the pacing of the course such that basic skills in writing, reading comprehension, and discussion, can be addressed in greater depth at a more deliberate pace. Emphasis will be placed upon an extended treatment of select readings from course texts as well as structured guidance through the writing process. The purpose of the Foundations course is to provide a path toward success with the goal of the student successfully entering standard Humanities courses in the future. Foundations will be counted as a full credit of the four required for the Humanities sequence.

The Humanities program involves the serious and extensive study of some of the great books of the western (classical) tradition. Students studying these works become familiar with many of the most important human efforts to capture what is true, good, and beautiful in the world around us and in ourselves. Specifically, the Humanities program pursues the important questions humans have asked regarding human nature, morality, politics, religion, and happiness.

The first semester of 9th grade Humanities focuses on the people of ancient Greece, the history that they lived, and the stories that they loved. The class meets two hours per day and uses the “Socratic” seminar method of learning, which involves daily discussion of the assigned readings and calls for the very best in reading, thinking, and discussion from both student and teacher. The texts can be difficult to read and understand, but with the guidance of the teacher and the consistent, serious, thoughtful participation of each student, everyone involved is brought to a deeper understanding of the world, the human community, and especially themselves as intellectual, social, political, moral, psychological, even spiritual human beings. Expectations for Humanities students are high. We have found that students who love to read, discuss, think, and write about such issues are amply rewarded for their efforts.

I. Supplies needed:

- One three-ring binder with course handouts
- Spiral notebook or loose leaf paper
- Composition book
- Black or blue pen
- Pencil
- Highlighters (different colors)
- Post-it notes

II. Course Reading List:

Semester One

- *The Iliad* by Homer
- *The Odyssey* by Homer
- *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles
- Selected dialogues of Plato
- Selections from *The Basic Works of Aristotle*
- Supplemental texts as needed

III. Course Expectations:

As a results of this course, you will:

- □Be introduced to some of the greatest and most influential texts ever written
- Understand the history, mythology, literature, and philosophy of ancient Greek civilization
- Develop the skills of oral and written expression through reading complex texts, discussing complex ideas, and writing thoughtful, focused responses
- Foster self-discipline and perseverance through completing course requirements well and on time
- Set up the rest of the Humanities program via an introduction to the foundation of Western culture

III. Attendance Policy:

- Please notify your instructor either in person or via e-mail if you know you are going to be absent so that you can receive any assignments or materials you may miss. Please note that it is **your responsibility** to be proactive.
- Being punctual is a life skill. Know that you are expected to be on time for class each day. If you do happen to be late, please enter the room discreetly and join in what the class is working on as soon as possible. Remember that more than three tardies (from any class) in a semester will earn you a detention. Please talk to your instructor if there are extenuating circumstances.
- A tardy does not simply mean arriving to class late. Coming to class unprepared is also grounds for a tardy. Making this a habit may also earn a pillar referral for lack of excellence.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the room during the first and last 10 minutes of class (exceptions may be made at teacher's discretion). Make good use of your passing time: students are expected to have taken care of restroom needs prior to the start of class.

V. Policies

Homework:

Late homework will not receive full credit, unless excused by the instructor. If you are sick, you will be given extra time to complete the assignment.

In the case of an in-school suspension or unexcused absence, homework is expected to be turned in on time. Late homework in these scenarios will not receive full credit.

Scheduling:

- Except for quizzes, which may be unannounced, all homework assignments and

due dates will be stated orally in class, listed on the class whiteboard, and posted online.

- Assignments are to be completed on the day they are listed and turned in the following school day.
- Homework will mostly involve nightly readings from the current text as well as writing assignments that correspond to the readings or class discussion.

Behavior:

Any behavior that is distracting from the learning of the student and his/her classmates will be taken seriously. Every student is expected to uphold a behavior and attitude of respect for the classroom and everyone and everything within it. Pillar Referrals will be issued when necessary along with an email to the parent(s).

Students should be ready to begin class before the ringing of the bell. If students are not sitting down and/or not prepared for class, they will be marked as being tardy.

No food or drink except for water inside the classroom. Please read the Eagle Ridge Academy Student Handbook for more details on school policies.

VI. Grading Scale and Criteria

Eagle Ridge Academy Grading Scale:

93%-100% = A	87%-89% = B+	77%-79% = C+	67%-69% = D+
	83%-86% = B-	73%-76% = C	63%-66% = D
90%-92% = A-	80%-82% = B-	70%-72% = C-	60%-62% = D-
59% and lower = Incomplete			

Grading Criteria/Weights:

Reading/Homework: 20%
In-class Work: 30%

Essays/Exams: 40%
Writing Journal/Vocabulary: 10%.

Syllabus Agreement

“As a student in English class, I have read and understood the syllabus in its entirety and am committed to meeting the expectations required of me, contributing positively to the class community, and asking the teacher when I have questions.”

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Class Period: _____

Instructor: Mrs. Julia Demakis-Haustein (Mrs. D-H)
Room 2104
(952) 746-7760 ext. 2104

Website: era78.weebly.com

Planbook: Link is posted on Weebly. Check frequently for grades, upcoming homework assignments.

Instagram: Follow the account for English class reminders.
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Parent/s initial here

11111 Bren Road W. · Minnetonka, MN 55343 · Telephone: 952-746-7760 · Facsimile: 952-746-7765