

English 10
2023–24
Room 115
First period
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Mrs. Cherie Walsh
Office across from classroom
Office hours: Sign up on office door
Class website: cheriewalsh.weebly.com

Description

English 10 is mostly an exploration of medieval literature. Building upon the Classical texts studied in ninth grade, this course shows the transition from the Classical to the Christian sensibility as Western Civilization's dominant worldview. This year's Shakespeare is, suitably, *Henry V*. The course also features a poetry unit that lays the groundwork for the AP Lit advanced poetry unit in the twelfth grade. Finally, explorations surrounding ideals of femininity (as we meet Beatrice in *Purgatorio*) find further discussion and debate as we read (unrelated to medieval literature) Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*.

Confessions, St. Augustine, trans. Sr. Maria Boulding
Beowulf, trans. Seamus Heaney
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, trans. Simon Armitage
Henry V, Shakespeare
Excerpts from *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer
Sound and Sense, Perrine and Arp
Purgatorio, Dante, trans. Anthony Esolen
Sense and Sensibility, Austen

Grammar comes from usage; vocabulary comes from context. Vocabulary study includes the use of context cues from literature as well as work with etymology, so that students can understand better the mechanisms of language.

Poem memorization

Memorizing poems is important to the culture of Brookewood School K–12. Students who memorize a poem for recitation

- gain experience with public speaking
- learn to trust themselves
- internalize structures of syntax to increase their understanding of how sentences can work
- internalize patterns of sound
- increase vocabulary in a permanent way

In English 10, students will memorize one poem that corresponds to each major text in the course.

A few policy points:

1. Academic honesty. This course will follow the school policy for academic honesty, including a complete prohibition on the use of any AI (including Grammarly) and which will be discussed in class. Because evidence is tricky and complete certainty of AI use is close to impossible, the teacher reserves the right to have any student rewrite any assignment in class. Most assignments will make clear the level of research allowed or expected, but please ask me questions if you are wondering about the use of any outside source.

2. Late work. Late homework is accepted for half credit; late papers lose one letter grade per day late, bottoming out at 50%. Ask for an extension at least 36 hours in advance if you see trouble coming. IEP-type extra-time accommodations apply to work completed in class only, e.g., in-class writings or tests. The teacher will be reasonable.

3. The end of the quarter is the end of the quarter; the end of the year is the end of the course. I can't accept additional assignments after the end of the quarter or after the course has ended.

4. All work must be presented double spaced, whether handwritten in pen or typed. Any work submitted electronically must be submitted as a Google Doc link to the appropriate assignment slot in Jupiter. Use the same Google Doc from beginning to end so that revisions are available.

Tips for success:

1. Class is much more interesting when you have done the reading. If you fall behind, do the current assignment and then reach back to pick up what you have missed. If you read ahead, be sure to go over your annotations before class so that you are clear about what material is in the current reading.

2. The revolution will not be televised.

- a. Come to class whenever you can; when you miss, get assignments from friends, the website, and the teacher.
- b. Participate avidly in discussions and activities to learn as much as you can and to collaborate with your classmates to improve everyone's learning
- c. Take notes. Students sometimes think that book annotation is enough. It is not. Keep a daily record of class in your notebook.
- d. Annotate your books. We'll review how to do it, and most students develop their individual styles.
- e. Frequent office hours. You will not be fully successful in this class unless you come to office hours with drafts, ideas, and questions.

A final word:

English at Brookewood is challenging because we believe in the importance of both the literature we've selected and your developing reading and writing skills. In ninth grade, you read excellent texts and learn to analyze them in a grade-appropriate version of the same techniques you'll use in college. No matter your post-Brookewood plans, the experience of reading literature as both a mirror (we identify and sympathize with characters and test out decisions and thoughts in a safe way, through art) and a window (we learn about people other than ourselves and places and cultures related to but not identical with our own) should help develop your thinking and your understanding of the human experience as a whole. I expect that you'll find ways to enjoy reading along, learning also about the systems of language and common patterns in art.