

English

9th Grade Intl. [6 periods per week]

Mr. Brad McClanahan

Course Description

How does “belonging” to a place or to a group contribute to a person’s identity and power? In English 9, students will consider how societies create and withhold belonging to individuals and to groups based on factors such as race, gender, age, religion, place of birth, value system, etc. We will read texts depicting systems that administer (and exploit) social difference, such as colonialism, racism, and totalitarianism. Besides considering the effects of these frameworks, students will be asked to explore alternative ways of imagining and responding to differences.

Course Aims: This class will ask students to read rigorously and critically, actively deploying annotation to put themselves into conversation with what they read. Besides mastering elements such as plot, characterization, and message, students will learn to engage critically with elements such as figurative language, diction, craft, and style. Students will also be asked to listen closely to each other and to engage in analytic self-reflection. Students will undertake analytic and creative writing, digital and oral presentations, and participation in real-world projects that emerge from the course texts, such as debates, theatrical monologues, research papers, etc.

Timeline

August - September: *The Odyssey* (700 BCE) by Homer

October: *Of Mice and Men* (1937) by John Steinbeck (Penguin 1993 reissue; 978-0140177398)

November - December: *1984* (1949) by George Orwell (Signet Classic; 978-0451524935)

January - February - March: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) by Harper Lee (Harper Perennial; 978-0060935467)

March - May: Poetry and *Merchant of Venice* and *Romeo and Juliet* (1600) by William Shakespeare (Simon and Schuster, Folger Shakespeare Library Series; 978-0743477543)