

Academic Year 2009-2010

Language Arts Instructor: Judy Conlin

Course Philosophy: This course is designed to explore all facets of the English language, including grammar, vocabulary, literature, and composition. Grammar will focus primarily on a solid foundation of parts of speech and parts of the sentence. Literature will cover short stories, poetry, drama, and the novel. In composition, students will learn effective sentence writing, paragraph structure, and multi-paragraph essays. Vocabulary exercises will help students learn not only new words but their correct usage, derivations, and the use of diacritical marks in figuring out pronunciation.

Texts: *Prentice-Hall Writing and Grammar*
Prentice-Hall Literature
Vocabulary Power Pack – Book G

Materials Needed: Notebook and paper
Writing materials
Folder for handouts and Reading Log

Grading Procedure: Your trimester grade will be based on a point system.

Grading Scale:

90-100	A- to A+	First Trimester – 15%
80-89	B- to B+	Second Trimester – 25%
70-79	C- to C+	Third Trimester – 35%
60-69	D- to D+	Midyear cumulative exam – 10%
0 – 59	F	Final cumulative exam – 15%

Class Expectations

Be prepared – (homework completed, correct book, notebook, and writing materials)

Be on Time

Participate in Class

Cheating and Plagiarism –unacceptable

Respect for others and yourself through actions and words

No gum chewing or eating allowed in the classroom; water may be drunk.

Homework

- 1.) Except for compositions and other special assignments, homework is not generally collected, but it is checked on a daily basis.
- 2.) Reading assignments must be done as carefully as written ones, and from time to time, reading checks will be given, unannounced, to check for understanding
- 3.) All graded assignments must be passed in on the due date; school policy is to penalize one letter grade for each day late, unless prior arrangements have been made well before the due date.

- 4.) All handwritten work must be done neatly either in pencil or in blue or black ink. Assignments required to be typed will be announced ahead of time.

Reading Workshop: Each week during the hour-long class, students are expected to bring a book to class for our D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) program. Students are responsible for their own books, which must be of a grade-appropriate level. (Magazines are not allowed. Upon completing a book, each student will complete a Story Map that outlines the important literary aspects of that work. Completed Story Maps are to be kept in a personal folder. Students will also record the number of pages they have read on a Reading Log that is also kept in the folder. There are a required number of pages that must be read to attain various grades for Reading Workshop. More information about this will be discussed in class.

Neatness: Not only is all work required to be neat, but so is the desk at which each student sits. Trash must be placed in the trash barrel, not in the desk. Also, desks are not personal lockers; no materials may be stored in the desks overnight, unless students are specifically instructed to do so.

Tentative Outline

This tentative outline lists major units that will be covered in class. Vocabulary, composition, essays, and tests will be added regularly and announced in advance. D.E.A.R. will be offered during the hour-long block, and classes will frequently begin with on-the-board sentence corrections, quick writes, and journal writing.

Trimester 1

- Week 1 Introduction; Get to know you activities
- Week 2 Short stories; grammar (nouns)
- Week 3 Short stories; grammar (nouns/pronouns)
- Week 4 Short stories; grammar (pronouns)
- Week 5 Grammar test; short story test; poetry
- Week 6 Grammar (verbs)
- Week 7 Literature Circle (*I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree*); grammar (verbs)
- Week 8 Literature (*I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree*); grammar test
- Week 9 Literature (*I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree*); poetry; grammar (adjectives)
- Week 10 Short story test; personal narrative
- Week 11 Grammar (adjectives); personal narrative
- Week 12 Grammar (adverbs)

Trimester 2

- Week 1 Grammar (adverbs); literature

Thanksgiving Vacation

- Week 2 Grammar (adverbs); drama
- Week 3 Grammar (prepositions); drama
- Week 4 Grammar (review and test); drama; tribute essay

Christmas Vacation

Week 5 Tribute essay; poetry

Week 6 Grammar (parts of the sentence); novel (*Chinese Cinderella*)

Week 7 Grammar (parts of the sentence); novel (*Chinese Cinderella*)

Week 8 Novel (*Chinese Cinderella*); persuasive essay; grammar review

Week 9 Review and Final Exam

Week 10 Grammar (conjunctions and interjections); poetry

Week 11 Literature (myths, fables, and folk tales)

Week 12 Literature (myths, fables, and folk tales); project

Trimester 3

Week 1 Short stories; grammar (fragments and run-ons)

Week 2 Short stories; grammar (punctuation)

Spring Break

Week 3 Short stories; grammar (capitalization)

Easter Break

Week 4 Novel (*Zlata's Diary*); poetry; poetry project

Week 5 Novel (*Zlata's Diary*); poetry; poetry project

Week 6 Novel (*Zlata's Diary*); poetry; poetry project

Week 7 Literature Grammar (agreement)

Week 8 Literature (non-fiction); grammar (effective sentences)

Week 9 Literature (non-fiction); grammar (effective paragraphs)

Week 10 Review

Week 11 Review/ Final Exam

Course Outline

This outline does not represent a chronological listing but rather the areas of focus within each unit of study.

I. Vocabulary

- A. Definitions
- B. Sentence Completion
- C. Roots, Prefixes, Suffixes
- D. Critical Reading
- E. Improving Sentences
- F. Words in Context
- G. Writing

II. Grammar

A. Parts of speech

- 1. Nouns –common, proper, collective, compound
- 2. Pronouns – personal, demonstrative, interrogative, indefinite
- 3. Verbs – action, linking
- 4. Adjectives
- 5. Adverbs
- 6. Prepositions
- 7. Conjunctions –correlative, coordinating
- 8. Interjections

B. Parts of the Sentence

1. Subject
2. Predicate
3. Complements – Direct object, Indirect object
Predicate Nominative, Predicate Adjective

C. Phrases and clauses

- D. Sentence types – declarative, interrogative
Imperative, exclamatory

E. Agreement – Subject/verb, pronoun/antecedent

F. Punctuation

G. Capitalization

III. Literature

A. Major literary elements

1. Setting
2. Theme
3. Characterization
3. Novel
 - a. I Will
4. Conflict
5. Plot
6. Language

B. Types of literature

1. Short story
2. Poetry
3. Novel
 - a. *I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree*
 - b. *Chinese Cinderella*
 - c. *Zlata's Diary*
4. Drama

IV. Composition

- A. Personal narrative
- B. Tribute essay
- C. Persuasive essay
- D. Journal writing