

ACT PREP

09-10 COURSE SYLLABUS

Mr. Petty

jpetty@centralr3.org

Schoolnotes page: <http://new.schoolnotes.com/jpetty01/>

Course Description: ACT Prep is a class provided for college bound juniors and seniors. It provides students with the opportunity to review skills and become familiar with the format of the American College Testing Program. The ACT exam consists of math, English, reading, and science reasoning and this class will focus on the skills necessary to achieve success in these areas. The rising importance and emphasis on ACT scores for college admission and scholarships can mean added pressure to students. The goal of this course is to not only improve their ACT scores, but to make students feel more comfortable and confident in any test taking situations.

Instructional Philosophy: This course will be totally devoted to improving ACT composite scores. My goal is to help all students achieve a composite score of 21 (or better), which is the national and state average. Students will be given a practice test in all four areas (English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning). They will then receive instruction on how to improve in these areas. An ACT practice test will then be given again to check for improvement. Hopefully, after this process, students will be fully prepared to take the ACT exam to produce their maximum score.

Major Course Goals:

- 1) Practice taking the ACT exam.
- 2) Differentiate between correct English sentences and those with errors.
- 3) Investigate attack strategies for problem solving and elementary algebra.
- 4) Employ problem solving strategies to common intermediate algebra and coordinate geometry.
- 5) Relate problem solving strategies of key principles of geometry and trigonometry.
- 6) Apply reading skills.
- 7) Review scientific reasoning.

Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities: Instructional Activities will include but are not limited to: Lecture, Homework Assignments, ACT Practice Tests and Activities, Quizzes, a Semester Final, and Reading Assignments. There will be a major project during the semester. The project will be “100 Words That Every High School Graduate Should Know”. This project involves the book of the same name and will engage students in becoming familiar with important words and extending their vocabulary.

Course Assessment Plan: Tests and quizzes will be worth 75% of your grade. Homework, classroom assignments, and projects will be worth 25 % of your grade. Your test and quiz grades will be based on making a 21 or better on the ACT exam. Your final course grade for the semester will be based on the following: 1st quarter (50%), 2nd quarter (50%). **If students**

do not take the ACT Exam at some point during the semester, they will take a grade cut of 1 letter grade.

Classroom Expectations:

- 1) Students will respect their fellow classmates and the teacher.
- 2) Students will always use their ears and minds at all times in class.
- 3) Students will devote the entire period to preparing for the ACT exam.
- 4) Students will not bring food or drinks into the classroom.
- 5) Students will ask questions when they do not understand.
- 6) Students will bring pencil, paper, any ACT materials, and a willingness to learn and work hard to class everyday.
- 7) Students will be expected to attend class everyday (on time). This is a must to be successful in the real-world, as well as school. If you must be absent, try to get your assignments ahead of time if possible.
- 8) Students will be expected to take the actual ACT Exam at some point during the semester.

Supplies and materials needed: Make sure that you have paper, any materials that we are currently using in class (notes, practice items, etc.), and a writing utensil everyday. You may want to keep a separate notebook or folder with ACT materials and notes in it. I will be giving you a large amount of loose material. There is no specific textbook used for this class. I would also strongly suggest having a scientific calculator for this class. It is not absolutely necessary though. I will have TI-82 graphing calculators available for in-class use only.

Homework Policy and Grading Scale: Please refer to the Student Handbook for the Homework Policy. The grading scale is as follows:

95-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-94	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

Recommended/Required Reading: In this class, reading represents 25% of the ACT Exam. It is highly recommended that you are an avid reader. I would recommend reading books that interest you in your spare time.

Extra Help: The time that you are given in class should be enough to be successful in this class. However, I am not here to sit behind a desk and watch students be unsuccessful. I am more than willing to help you be successful in this class. If you need help before school, I usually get here no later than 7:30 a.m. You may also take advantage of our extra help program (P.A.S.S.) after school. Ask what days I am available. I can stay after school most days, if you just let me know in advance.

Time and place to be reached by parent: My school e-mail is jpetty@centralr3.org. This is probably the best and quickest way to reach me. I can also be reached by calling the school at 573-431-2616 EXT 4161 and leave a message. I will get back with you at my earliest convenience.