

Academic Year: Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

Teacher: Dawn Tucker

Classroom: 101

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### Course Description

This course is developed to help students cultivate a personal voice in their own writing, learn the skills of compelling rhetoric in all types of writing, and learn to discuss literature and ideas in an intelligent, respectful manner. Together, we will integrate basic reading, writing, listening and speaking skills through the survey of literature, poetry, drama, and philosophy. Texts are selected to build upon students' prior learning, to improve reading strategies and to encourage critical thinking. Short stories, poems, fiction and non-fiction pieces have been selected to emphasize philosophical principles, rhetorical structure, and literary elements. Academic writing and discussion are the principle methods of exploration of the continuity of thought between ages and across cultures. This course focuses on teaching students to read complex texts closely while cultivating the ability to express themselves fully and accurately in their own writing.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the structures and elements of literature.
2. Recognize and apply knowledge of the historical and cultural aspects of Western literature.
3. Explain basic elements of argument and rhetoric in text and their relationship to the author's purpose and use of persuasive strategies.
4. Write in all content areas (expressive, expository, functional, persuasive, literary response, and research).

### Required Supplies

Students will need the following supplies for the course:

- A black and white composition notebook.
- Loose-leaf notebook paper (8 ½ X 11 college-rule only)
- Large, ruled index cards
- Blue or black ink pens AND pencils
- Access to a word processing program and a computer

### Recommended Supplies

Students may find the following supplies helpful for the course:

- 3-ring binder
- 3-hole punch
- Post-it notes

### Course Outline and Schedule of Topics

#### Unit 1

Literature: *Allegory of the Cave* and other selections from *The Republic* by Plato  
*1984* by George Orwell or *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

Composition: Paragraph, 5 Paragraph Essay, Phrases for Elaboration: Appositive Phrase, Gerund Phrase, Infinitive Phrase, Noun Clause, Multiple Verb, Inverted Verb

Written work: Research Paper, Narrative Speech, Paragraphs, Travel Essay or Sports Report, Action, Descriptive, Jig-Saw Puzzle

#### Unit 2

Literature: *Oedipus Rex* by Euripides  
*Othello* by William Shakespeare  
*Our Town* by Thornton Wilder

Composition: Narrative Speech, Comparative Essay, Phrases for Elaboration: Opening and Delayed Adjective, Participle Phrase, Prepositional Phrase, Infinitive Phrase, Absolute Phrase, Adjective Clause

Written work: Comparative Essay, Narrative Speech Paragraphs: Presidential Paragraph or Creative Narrative, Performance Review, Jig-Saw Puzzle

#### Unit 3

Literature: *Song of Myself* & Selections from *Memoranda During the War* - Walt Whitman  
 Poetry by: Li Po, Thomas Wyatt, William Shakespeare, John Donne, John Milton, Phyllis Wheatly, John Keats, Stephen Crane, Emily Dickinson, Thomas Hardy, Arthur Rimbaud, William Butler, Carl Sandburg, Dylan Thomas, William Carlos Williams, ee cummings, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Paul Celan, A.D. Hope, Wallace Stevens, Sylvia Plath, Pablo Neruda, Anne Sexton, Gwendolyn Brooks, Adrienne Rich, Margaret Atwood, Alan Ginsberg, Mary Oliver, Robert Hass, Ted Kooser, Natasha Tretheway

Composition: Prose Poetry, Sestina, Sonnet, Villanelle, Phrases for Elaboration: Opening and Delayed Adverb, Prepositional Phrase, Infinitive Phrase, Absolute Phrase, Adverb Clause

Written Work: Vender Analysis, Analytical Essay, Poetry, Resume, Paragraphs: Advertisement, Jig-Saw Puzzle

#### Unit 4

Literature: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  
*My Antonia* by Willa Cather or *The Tie that Binds* by Kent Haruf  
 Student choice Biography or Memoir

Composition: Phrases for Elaboration: Multiple Tools, Mixed Tools

Written Work: Senior Speech, Words of Wisdom, Narrative Essay, Paragraphs: Magazine Article, News Report

#### Additional Texts

*The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classic Era to the Present*, selected by Phillip Lopate

*Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History* selected by William Safire

*Grammar for College Writing: A Sentence Composition Approach* by Don and Jenny Killgallon

#### Additional Writing/Reading Assignments

Literature Circle Packets. Creative writing journal entries in composition notebook. Assignments may be added or subtracted throughout the year at teacher's discretion.

### Supplemental Materials

Podcasts, TedTalks, News Articles

### Tests and Quizzes

Tests and Quizzes will be announced at least one week in advance. “Pop” reading quizzes will be given only if students do not appear to be keeping up with the reading for discussion.

### Grades

In general the more important an assignment, the more points will be possible. No assignments or exams will be curved. Grade inquiries will need to be made outside of regular class time. Please utilize FamilyLink to stay abreast of the course grade for your student.

### Absence/Make-up Work Policy

If you are involved in school-sponsored events requiring you to miss class, you must turn in work or complete your assignments before going on the trip or make arrangements with me for submission. Your assignment must be complete and submitted in class on the day it is due to be eligible for full credit. **ALL LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DOCKED 10% EVERY DAY PAST THE DEADLINE AND RESULT IN LUNCH DETENTION.** Essays will not be accepted for credit if they are more than five days late, but must still be submitted. You must print your work before arriving in class.

### Computer Use & Access

You will need access to the internet and a word processor for some homework assignments. Please make plans to use these resources if necessary and as needed to complete your work in a timely manner. Some access to technology can be supplied on campus, but you should prepare to work on portions of this course outside of class that will require technical literacy. Personal computers are not allowed in class.

### Phones, ipods, etc

All electronics will be placed in the “phone bin” before class begins and retrieved after class ends. Exceptions will be made only in extraordinary circumstance at the request of a parent or guardian.

### Respectful Classroom Conduct

Due to the sometimes troubling nature of history and literature, sensitive subjects and controversial issues may be raised in class. Respect for diversity of opinion and the serious nature of this material is required. All opinions are welcome, but personal attacks and sexist or racist language will not be tolerated.

### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a personal choice. It is taking responsibility for your own work; it is being individually accountable; and it means honesty in your academic work. In other words, we expect you to make choices that reflect integrity and responsible behavior.

Academic integrity applies to both written work and oral presentations. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following: the willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized text, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students using fraud, duress, deception, theft, trickery, talking, signs, gestures, copying, or any other methodology.

### Plagiarism

- Submitting or presenting another person's work as your own without proper documentation, including downloaded information from the Internet. For example, direct copying and pasting from the

internet (or anywhere else) requires quotation marks (indicating that you are using the ideas and words of others), as well as accurate and complete citation information.

- Using another student's material.

### Cheating

- Giving or receiving information during a test, quiz, and/or class work assignment without teacher authorization.
- Using hand signals, gestures, and the like during tests or quizzes to obtain/give information.
- Using or having access to unauthorized materials during a test or quiz.

A student who engages in academic dishonesty can expect to receive an "0" for the assignment. The student may also be placed on academic and/or disciplinary probation.

### Suggestions for Success

The following strategies will be useful throughout the course:

- Do the reading. The purpose of our work together is the consideration of literary texts. If you do not do the assigned reading for this course, you can expect your grade to drop precipitously.
- Start organized, stay organized. Keep all of your assignments and materials for this course. **DO NOT THROW ANY COURSE MATERIALS AWAY**

## No Excuses! Be a Problem-Solver.

Excuse #1: *"I didn't have enough time"*

Solution: Budget your time wisely. Use the calendar of assignments in the syllabus. Get it done early. Avoid procrastination (i.e. the night before) because the unexpected does happen.

Excuse #2: *"My printer isn't working"*

Solution: Go to Staples! Print it out the night before it is due. Use a friend's printer. Worst case scenarios, email it to me so it isn't considered late.

Excuse #3: *"I ran out of paper"*

Solution: Print your assignment out the night before and put it in your bag. Go to the store before it closes.

Excuse #4: *"I didn't understand the assignment, so I didn't do it."*

Solution: If you don't understand something, you need to ASK. Contact your peers BEFORE asking me. Re-read the assignment description!

Excuse #5: *"I emailed it to you."*

Solution: If I do not respond to your e-mail with the words "got it," I did not get it. Check the e-mail address. It should be [dtucker@northlandprep.org](mailto:dtucker@northlandprep.org).

Excuse #6: *"It was due today?? I didn't know."*

Solution: Keep this packet & syllabus with you for every class so you can keep yourself informed. Write down due dates on your personal calendar.

Excuse #7: *"I lost my syllabus, can I get another one?"*

Solution: Make a photocopy from a friend. You get only one. Email me a request to send it to you electronically.

Excuse #8: *"I wasn't here in class, I didn't know something was due."*

Solution: Check your syllabus AND contact a friend to find out what you missed. Just because YOU are not here doesn't mean class stops! You are responsible for all material missed.

### Signatures

Thank you for taking time to review the syllabus. By signing below you are indicating you understand and agree to support the policies presented, and give consent for your student to read the course texts listed above. Please contact me immediately if you have questions or concerns about the course materials, policies, or expectations.

YOUR EDUCATION IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact Information

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_