

Humanities I

Syllabus

Fall Term - 2015

Welcome Cougars and Cougar Parents! On behalf of the entire Humanities I team, we welcome you to our program. We are here for you and plan on making this a successful and exciting term.

What is Humanities I?

Ninth-grade Humanities I is a two-block course. Technology skills are built into the Humanities curriculum. One course is 9th grade English / Language Arts and the other course is Geography. Literacy skills, such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening, are emphasized in both classes. In addition, students will use geographic tools to study the physical and cultural characteristics of places and regions. This course is aligned to the CCSS, the Common Core State Standards for California, in both English /Language Arts and Literacy in Social Science.

A sampling of skills students will gain:

- In-depth understanding of various regions and their cultures
- Strategic online research skills and the incorporation of Empower3000 to enhance reading comprehension
- Computer skills such as word processing, slide presentations, video editing, multimedia projects, and web page design
- Reading and vocabulary development through imaginative and informational text
- Academic writing skills with detailed instruction in content development, organization, style, and grammar
- Improved public speaking skills
- Introduction to rhetorical analysis, gaining familiarity with rhetorical devices and the language of argument and persuasion

Our units of study will be housed under essential questions. Inside those units, students will explore the following ideas:

- How do perceptions influence how people see others?
- How does culture influence human interactions?
- How does your journey define you?

In English class, students will read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, informational texts, visual texts, a self-selected novel to be read in Literature Circles, and *The Odyssey*.

In Geography, students will read informational texts, visual texts, graphs, charts, maps, and other data.

Both courses will also utilize as many multimedia resources as are relevant and rigorous to the unit under study.

Rules and Policies

Combined Grading:

- 45% Assessments (Tests, Quizzes, Essays, Speeches)
- 25% English daily work
- 25% Geography daily work
- 5% Participation & Preparedness

SCHS Grading Scale

A+	97.5-100
A	92.5-97.4
A-	89.5-92.4
B+	87.5-89.4
B	82.5-87.4
B-	79.5-82.4
C+	77.5-79.4
C	72.5-77.4
C-	69.5-72.4
D+	67.5-69.4
D	62.5-67.4
D-	59.5-62.4
F	0-59.4

Check your student's grade online

- We will use an online gradebook through Illuminate, our student information system. It is a full-featured, completely secure Internet site that allows the parent/student viewer to log in and view only your child's grade using the unique log in information for your child. Please check it regularly.
- Your login information for Illuminate will come on a separate handout

Competencies:

- Students must pass competencies in the following areas in order to advance to 10th grade:
 - a. Oral Presentations (**two** out of three must pass competency)
 - b. Process Essay Writing (**all** must pass competency)
 - c. Timed Essay Writing (**two** must pass competency)
 - College prep passing grade = 3- on a 6 point rubric
 - Honors passing grade = 4- on a 6 point rubric
- If all competencies are not met, the student will have to remediate his / her deficiency with his / her teacher or earn an F in the Humanities I course.

College Prep / Honors:

- Regardless of any GATE identifications in middle school, SCHS does not "track" students; therefore all students with motivation and ability have the opportunity to perform honors work and earn honors credit. We realize that students in the Honors program may be interested in Advanced Placement classes in their future years of high school. In order to prepare them for the academic rigor they will encounter, we feel it is necessary to prepare them. As a result, students enrolled in the Honors program will be expected to:
- Complete differentiated classwork and homework that requires deep thought
- Write in-class insightful essays using organization, correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Read 1-2 additional novels and complete accompanying assignments such as dialectical journals research and essays.

- Maintain a grade of a B in Humanities, or be dropped from the program.
- If your child meets the above requirements, they will be eligible to earn an A worth 5 credits instead of 4, affecting their overall GPA.
- If you are interested in reading further about the expectations of an honors student, ask your student for a copy of the honors agreement letter which must be signed separately.

Homework policy:

- Late homework is accepted for half-credit, within the unit of study.
- All late projects and essays will receive **half-credit** when turned in the day after they are due. After one day, the assignment may be turned in for competency, but will receive no credit.
- *Communicate with your teachers if you have extenuating circumstances.*

Make-up Assignments:

- Students may not make up class work or tests missed as a result of a truancy.
- It is the student's responsibility to get missed work due to an excused absence. Students must request missed work and turn in work from an absence without being prompted by teachers.
- Students should check online websites for materials and lessons that they have missed. Most assignments can be accessed from home.

Schoolwide Attendance Policies and Academic Dishonesty Policies will be enforced and may be found in the Student Handbook.

Computer Acceptable Use Policy:

- Please refer to the student handbook. Our class will strictly adhere to these policies.

HOMEWORK and DAILY AGENDA

Student Agendas:

- Daily agendas may be found on our classroom websites.
- Parents and students are expected to follow our online classrooms and websites to stay up to date on assignments and due dates.
- If your student does not have internet access at home, they will be expected to record their daily homework at the start of each class.

Geography Resource Page:

- This website is updated so that parents and students can keep themselves informed on current assignments, due dates, and missed lectures and class handouts. We also keep many lessons and documents available for viewing or download.

<https://sites.google.com/a/schscougars.org/schs-geography/>

Fill in the log-in information here:

USERNAME: _____

(student ID#; ex: 20160000)

PASSWORD: _____

(student password for his/her personal computer profile at SCHS; ex: Branch5543)

English Website:

- This is a shared website amongst the English teachers, but you may find specific information from your student's teacher as well. A calendar is posted on site so that you and your child may keep up to date with homework assignments, worksheets, etc. A large portion of our curriculum may be downloaded via Google docs directly from the calendar. Please visit the site and save it as a bookmark in your search engine for easy access in the future.
<https://sites.google.com/a/schscougars.org/hum1english/>

Gmail / Google Apps for Education

- SCHS will provide a gmail account for your student that will allow them to access the schscougars.org domain. To ensure student safety upon setting up any new email account, we also recommend you have your student's password.
- All students will be required to utilize a gmail account that will be used for school purposes only in order to access the multiple opportunities that the Google Apps platform provides via Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Classroom, etc.
- Student e-mail use during class time will be monitored. Email can be utilized for classwork but will not be available for personal use during class time. Students are encouraged to communicate with his / her teacher via email regarding missing assignments.
- Students MAY NOT use personal email accounts as they will not allow programs to perform outside of our school permissions and access.

Supplies for the Course

In this class, each student should have

- USB flash/thumb drive—necessary for assignments worked on both at school and home, especially if there is limited or no internet access in the evenings
- a set of earbuds or headphones
- a working printer with paper and ink OR access to one via family, friend, public library or school library
- a notebook (three ring binder—no smaller than 1 1/2")
- five dividers (1 package)
- two packages college-ruled notebook paper (8 1/2 X 11)
- blue or black ink pens
- pencils
- highlighters (at least four colors)
- one package colored pencils
- three-ring zipper pouch (to hold pens, pencils, and highlighters)
- post-it notes and glue sticks

Reading Materials

Whole Class Texts:

To Kill a Mockingbird

The Odyssey

Literature Circles (students read 1-2 titles, analyzing each with a small group):

The following is a **sampling** of the novels we offer and the choices are subject to student interest and availability. We have recently added over 20 new titles to this list, including recent Michael L. Printz Award-Winners from John Green and other award-winning authors.

CP only:

The Brave

The Contender

Ender's Game

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Forged by Fire

Hunger Games

Secret Life of Bees

Shadow of the Dragon

Tears of a Tiger

Where the Heart Is

Prisoner B3087

Just Listen

Speak

Wintergirls

CP/Honors:

The Bean Trees

In the Time of the Butterflies

The Hobbit

The Host

The Berlin Boxing Club

Life of Pi

Five Flavors of Dumb

My Sister's Keeper

The Fault in Our Stars

Looking for Alaska

Paper Towns

Divergent

Delirium

Be More Chill

Shipbreaker

PARENT/TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Highlight your student's teachers below and please call or email us whenever you have a question.

SUPPORT

Jennie Burton	jburton@schscougars.org	660-3676
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ENGLISH

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Jennifer Tennison	jtennison@schscougars.org	660-3690

Please have a parent or guardian sign the bottom of this page to show that he/she has read and understands this information. Detach and turn in to your Geography teacher. We are excited about having your student this term. We look forward to working with you and your student and having a very successful term.

Print Student Name_____

Print Parent Name_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

Parent / Guardian Email

Parent / Guardian Phone Number

Comments or questions that you may already have: