

10th Grade English Syllabus

Ms. Pasternack, Balboa High School
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“Stories have been used to dispossess and malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity.”
– Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Danger of a Single Story”

Hello Students, Families, and Caregivers,

My name is Tasha Pasternack, and I am the teacher for 10th grade English. I know there has been lots of information sent your way, and it can be overwhelming. For this reason, I am putting some of the most essential pieces of information at the top of this document before I get into what this class is about. You can find the following pieces of information in this order:

1. How to access our Zoom meetings
2. How to access Google Classroom and submit work there
3. How to contact me
4. Class Overview & Outline
5. Class Expectations
6. Policies on Late Work, Absences, and Grading

1. Live Zoom Meeting Links & When We Meet

We will use Zoom to come together as a class every other school day.

[Direct Link](#) (Click it)

Meeting ID: 845 1641 2113

Passcode: 940429

This period is schedule to run from 10:20 - 11:40.

Each period will be organized as follows:

30-60 minutes of **Synchronous Instruction** (live teaching for the whole class)

10 minutes of Wellness Checks (check-ins with students, as scheduled or requested)

Final 10 minutes = transition time (students may remain on the call to ask questions if they'd like)

There will also be up to 30 minutes of **Asynchronous work time** (students work on their own off of Zoom)

Students who are not able to attend live meetings can still access the assignments through Google Classroom.

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2. How to Access Google Classroom

All of our work for class will be posted in Google Classroom under the “Classwork” tab. Please don’t forget to click “Turn in” once you’ve finished an assignment, or I won’t know to check it.

To join our Google Classroom, go to this website (<http://classroom.google.com/>) and enter our class code: **qjy5rg**

3. How to Contact Me

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions, concerns, or requests for additional support. I encourage you to advocate for what you need. I am here to support you, but especially in the online format, it will be harder to tell when you might need something. Please know I welcome communication, because it helps me to do my job better.

Best Methods to Reach Me:

- Email: pasternackn@sfusd.edu
- Schedule a time for us to have a check-in over Zoom

4. Class Overview & Outline

Welcome to 10th Grade English! As Ethnic Literature, this class gives us an opportunity to look at the many different voices that make up the world of literature. As suggested in the quote at the top of this syllabus, these voices can be used in both positive and negative ways, as those who tell stories have enormous power in shaping the way we view the world around us. As we dissect the stories we read and view this year, we will pay close attention to how the authors have fit their works into their particular time, taking special note of how they have exposed, shifted, and flipped the power structures around them. These works will include a mix of short stories, novels, plays, essays, poems, films, and more.

Course Outline

Unit	Genre	Central Texts & Key Assignments
1	Narrative	TED talk by Chimamanda Adichie “Home” by Sherman Alexie Excerpt from <i>Woman Hollering Creek</i> by Sandra Cisneros Excerpt from <i>Bone</i> by Fae Myenne Ng Excerpt from <i>Autobiography of Malcolm X</i> by Malcolm X Excerpt from <i>The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven</i> by Sherman Alexie - Personal Narrative done through Writer’s Workshop

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2	Informative / Explanatory: Fiction	<i>Coffee Will Make You Black</i> by April Sinclair - Literary Analysis Essay with critical race, class, gender theory
3	Argument: Novel	<i>Bone</i> by Fae Myenne Ng - Literary Analysis Short Essay
4	Argument: Drama	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> by Lorraine Hansberry

5. Class Expectations

This class will require humility, trust, faith, and focus from all of us. This will require that we do work within ourselves, and that we also do work with one another.

Be respectful. This classroom is a place where all people should feel free to express and be themselves. Insulting remarks are unacceptable. Name-calling or disrespectful comments about another person's ethnicity, class, gender, religion, sexuality or any other part of their identity will not be tolerated even if it is meant as a joke.

Ask for help. Don't wait until the last minute to let the teacher or others know that you don't understand something! To learn is to ask questions.

Make mistakes. And learn from them. The only way to get better at something—whether it is reading more fluently, speaking more persuasively, or writing with more command—is by trying. Sometimes when we try, we fail. This is perfectly fine, as long as we learn from the experience and continue to work to get better.

Participate. This means showing up (on Zoom, or in person if we ever go back to school) each day, on time, organized, and prepared to share your thoughts with those around you. It means listening attentively and asking questions. (You can always “raise your hand” on Zoom to ask questions, or type a question in the chat. Questions tell me that you are actually paying attention, both to me and your classmates, and you are trying to understand!) It means fully engaging in writing activities and sharing your work with your peers. It means taking yourself off mute when we are in Breakout Rooms and talking to your peers as best you can. It means not being on your phone when we are in class. If we all do all of these things, we can have a very fun and engaging class.

Avoid plagiarism. Your work must be your own words and ideas. Copying or paraphrasing another author (including other students) without giving credit will result in a zero on the assignment without the possibility of making up the grade. There will also be a follow-up meeting with your counselor and parents.

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6. Class Policies

Late Work

Turning your work in on time is so important because: 1) it allows you to fully participate in class, and 2) it allows me, as your teacher, to give you meaningful and timely feedback. Normally, late work loses 10% of the total points per school day late. However, given our current situation, I am being very flexible with deadlines. I only ask that you do your best to keep up, and if something is preventing you from getting your work done on time, please just let me know. (You can do this by sending me an email, or by checking in with me at the end of class.) You can also always turn in assignments for partial credit, which is always better than receiving a zero.

Absences

I know that things are different right now, and there may be times you need to miss class (or have technical difficulties). If this is the case, please always send me an email, so I know what's going on. (The email doesn't need to be long; a quick explanation of what's going on in your life will suffice.) Then, in order to not fall behind, make sure to go onto Google Classroom and look for the work that you missed. Complete it to the best of your ability. If you have questions, please ask me, or a friend in the class. It is your responsibility to catch up on work that you missed so that you can stay engaged in our class.

Grading

Everything assigned is graded. You can always check your current grade on Synergy. I enter and update grades at least once a week.

Your assignments for each grading period fall into four categories, and they are weighted as follows:

- Homework -- 25%**
- Classwork -- 25%**
- Participation -- 25%**
- Assessments -- 25%**

Your grade for the semester will be determined using the following weighting:

- 1st Grading Period -- 25%**
- 2nd Grading Period -- 25%**
- 3rd Grading Period -- 25%**
- Final Exam -- 25%**

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The grading scale I am using right now has been modified to be more understanding of the current situation we are in. Here is the rubric I will use:

86-100% = A

70-85% = B

60-69% = C

50-59% = D

49% and below = Incomplete

(An “Incomplete” means you have not done enough work to demonstrate understanding of the material. You will need to meet with me individually to figure out what work you need to make up in order to receive a passing grade.)