



Nicolet High School

World Literature and Composition Honors Course Syllabus

Accelerating Achievement for Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Instructor Contact Information:

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Welcome!

The members of this World Lit class are about to embark upon a unique journey. As we explore works of fiction, poetry, drama, and memoir, we will ask the question: what is a hero? How have cultures throughout history defined the heroic, and how did that definition in turn reflect the needs and values of civilizations? We will examine the techniques used to convey both power and possibility in literature and art. Along the way we will sharpen analytical skills and fine-tune use of language, emerging as literate and compelling communicators.

What does this mean for you?

- A focus on decoding difficult texts – reading skills, paraphrasing, thinking about how you think.
- Various note-taking techniques, including graphic organizers, outlines.
- Writing, writing, and re-writing – if you write it, you’ll revise it. Expect 5-7 essays (ranging from persuasive to comparison-contrast to literary analysis), two major research projects, and a creative project or two.
- Research skills – how to find it, how to cut through the junk to the useful stuff, and how to use it/cite it so that you avoid plagiarism.
- The nuts and bolts of writing – grammar, punctuation, vocabulary.
- The use of technology: a variety of tools to enhance your learning and deliver your message.

Required Materials

- A three-ring binder with dividers labeled “Notes”, “Language”, and “Readings”.
- Looseleaf
- A composition notebook (something you can easily hand in).
- Small post-it notes (for annotating texts)
- Earbuds to be used when watching assigned videos in class
- Writing utensil of your choice
- A box of Kleenex -- you’ll be thankful when the winter cold season comes in.

Course Expectations

For us, the most important objective is to ensure your success as a student. On our end, we commit to coming to class prepared, having researched our topic and planned a variety of strategies to aid your learning. We will listen to and consider carefully your comments/questions, and work with you to find the answers. For your part, you will be required to:

- **Come prepared.** You will need your text for the day, your fully-charged Chromebook, your binder, a functioning writing utensil, looseleaf, any necessary handouts, and your post-its/highlighter for taking notes. The most important tool to bring is your mind, well-read and prepared for discussion.
- **Come focused.** Please restrict personal conversations to your free time. Disruptive behavior will result in the following consequences: first, a warning; second, a phone call home; third, detention after school. Disruptive behavior that impedes the learning process may result in the student's removal from class.

Our purpose in this class is to encourage your intellectual development in an environment of mutual respect and open enquiry. You are invited to offer ideas and engage in discussion while considering the views of others. Disruptive and/or rude behavior, discriminatory remarks, and obscenities will not be tolerated.

Grading Policy

Course Grade will be determined by the semester work (85%) and semester summative (15%).

Grading Scale:

The numeric value indicates the lowest possible score for the designated letter grade.

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
97	93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60	0

If you have a question about a grade online that differs from the grade on your assignment, please show us the assignment and we'll clear up the error.

- **Class Participation:** This includes arriving with all materials as well as your performance in small groups and contribution to large group discussions and completion of entrance/exit activities. Group discussion activities may include structured discussions (Socratic Seminars/Philosophical Chairs), unstructured class conversations, or on-line forums, but students should expect to participate actively in these activities, and will be called on/encouraged to contribute by the instructor.
- **Independent Reading Project:** one project per semester.
- **Notes:** It is your responsibility to obtain any notes you missed from a reliable classmate.
- **Homework:** See our homework policy for more details. **Membean**—requirements include 30-45 minutes weekly and will be graded weekly.
- **Assessments** You will be assessed at the end of every unit.

Revision policy: we only assign a quality grade to an essay/written project after having given feedback during the development process; first drafts are never graded for quality. On some assignments we will offer the option for revision after a final grade is given; students wishing to revise will need to make an appointment to meet with me and should come with their plan for revision ready to present. Revisions will, regrettably, not be accepted from students who have not met with us.

****Please Note: Assessments are the culmination of our work in class and are a crucial measure of student development. Failure to turn in an assessment project or major essay may result in failure of the quarter or semester.****

Homework Policy

- It is your responsibility to stay on top of your homework assignments. Check the board in class, check the class calendar page, check any unit plans you might receive to make certain you know what is due and when. Unless otherwise directed, all homework should be turned in at the beginning of the hour on the day on which it is due. [Ms. Mueller often stamps homework at the beginning of class if it will be used for discussion; unstamped homework will be considered late, so make sure your homework is stamped!]
- **Daily homework must be turned in on the day it is due.** Late homework will impede your ability to participate in that day's activities and may also lower your participation grade.
- **Late work can only be turned in and will only be graded after meeting with your teacher in Enrichment.** We are invested in your success in our class, so if you do not turn in homework on time, you will be asked to meet with me during Enrichment/ lunch/ after school so that we can help you in understanding the assignment or in creating a time management plan. Students turning in work that was missed because they were absent on the date due should mark their work "absent" but should still turn it in during Enrichment.
- Major assignments turned in late may be subject to teacher-specific penalties.
- In order to facilitate timely feedback and enhance clarity of understanding, please follow all directions on homework assignments.
- Our library is open at 7:15 am for your printing needs.

Please note: If your homework doesn't have a name, we cannot grade it; if it doesn't have a title, we may not know which assignment you have submitted; if it isn't given the assigned title in GoogleDocs, we may not be able to find it/grade it.

If you are absent, for any reason...

- **Check the class Canvas feed, the Canvas calendar, or your class agenda for what happened in class that day!**
- **Check with a classmate** to see what happened in class, including class notes that were given.
- **Please set up a make-up session** if you've missed a quiz or a test.
- You will be given **two days** for every day absent in which to make up any work assigned during your absence.

A Word To The Wise

Plagiarism is the use, intentional or otherwise, of someone else's work without giving that source proper credit. This applies whether you've downloaded a paper off the Internet, copied a sentence and changed a word or two, or slipped someone else's sentence into your paragraph. Plagiarism also includes copying someone else's homework; we will assume that any homework assignment matching a classmate's word for word has been plagiarized. Plagiarism will result in an immediate zero. Three instances of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for that class. Please review the Academic integrity policy in the Student Handbook (p. 52-53) for further details. Plagiarism can be avoided if you remember to cite all sources, and always restate research in your own words.

Nicolet High School commits itself to excellence and equity by intentionally engaging students in achieving personal success and contributing to the local and global economy. Academic integrity is vital to this commitment. Therefore, student work must be the student's own and completed in accordance with the District's academic integrity expectations. Students may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or utilize ChatGPT or additional Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. Students **MUST** obtain permission from their TEACHER before using an artificial intelligence (AI) tool for coursework. Using AI tools without permission is viewed as a violation of the District's Academic Integrity Policy. Thank you for your time and attention! We look forward to spending the year with you.

Personal Communication Devices (*as per the Student Handbook*)

Students may use personal communication devices (PCDs) before and after school, during their lunch break, in between classes as long as they do not create a distraction, disruption, or otherwise interfere with the educational environment, and while attending after school activities (e.g., extra-curricular activities. Use of PCDs, except those approved by a teacher or administrator, at any other time is prohibited. [Policy 5136](#)

Students are required to place all personal electronic devices in the storage device provided in each classroom when entering a learning space; students are NOT allowed to keep their devices on their person or in their belongings while in the classroom. If students are found to be using a device, it will be confiscated by the teacher and taken to the office. Failure to comply with a teacher's directive will result in a referral to administration and in-school suspension.