

Course Description and Goals:

WLC provides students with instruction for college and career readiness in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and information literacy. The class focuses on critical and analytical approaches to human life and culture throughout varying genres of literature and how they are constructed in different regions and times. Higher-level thinking skills (analysis, synthesis and evaluation) are stressed, and students will express their ideas coherently (via writing, presentations, and other compositions). The class is required for graduation and is also a prerequisite for U.S. Literature and Composition.

Semester Plan:

Q1: Short stories; novel; poetry; vocabulary

Q2: Novel, drama, research/presentation, vocabulary

Supplies:

--Laptop

--Paper

--Pen/Pencil

--Book, novel, packet, assignment

Essential Questions of the Course:

1. What is culture and how does it impact identity, perspectives/norms, justice, and change?
2. How does the genre/mode of creation impact the text's message?
3. How is culture expressed through various writings and styles?
4. Based upon your cultural identity and perspective, how can you impact or change societal justice/injustices?

Expected Course Outcomes: By the completion of this course, each passing learner will...

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how culture influences "texts"
2. Use various critical reading strategies to interpret texts and develop original ideas.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of literary/rhetorical techniques and devices used in works studied.
4. Use literary terms in discussion and analysis of texts.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking skills (analysis, application, synthesis, evaluation) in speaking/writing.
6. Develop and organize essays with deep analysis and concrete support.
7. Collaborate with others to prepare group discussions and projects.
8. Increase his/her vocabulary
9. Improve writing skills, including
 - a. strong thesis statements, introductions, and conclusions
 - b. organization and coherence
 - c. specific support of argument
 - d. grammar and mechanics
 - e. the writing process—brainstorming, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, publishing

Policies:

1. Treat others with respect! Please respect the learning environment by respecting opinions, disagreeing civilly, being honest, committing to your best effort and attitude, and seeking help when needed. Respect, responsibility, constructive criticism, and personal accountability for all student work will contribute to rich learning this semester.
2. Attendance: Be seated and ready to work before the bell rings. Tardiness means arriving to class after the bell rings without a pass, and yellow passes from the attendance office are not considered excused. Arrival of more than 10 minutes late up to 50% of the class will result in an EXT (extended tardy). Absences: 1=warning, 2=conference with student, 3=conference with student, 4=parent, counselor, and dean contact.

3. Absence/work: If you are absent for any reason, you are responsible for making up the missed material. Peers, Google Classroom, speaking to Mrs. Bahl, etc. are valuable resources. Excused absences receive 1-2 days for work completion before the late penalty. If something personal is going on, please communicate with Mrs. Bahl so that a plan can be made to help you be successful.
4. Food/drink: Quick snacks are permitted. If you make a mess, clean it up (use the trash can/don't wipe on the floor). Water is preferred in a water bottle to help protect the carpet. Do not bring a whole meal and eat in front of everyone.
5. Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is stealing/cheating. It is expected that all work you submit will be your own and from your own thinking. You will accurately give credit to sources using MLA citations. Turning in work that you did not write, "recycling" work from other classes or previous assignments, and failing to properly cite sources used are all forms of "plagiarism" or "academic dishonesty." Penalties include receiving a zero on the assignment, communicating with parents, redoing the assignment in my presence for a failing score, and/or reporting to school administration.
6. Assignment Revision: A significant goal of this class is to assist you in improving your writing skills, so I will usually allow you to revise essays and other written assignments for a better score. To qualify, you must have completed all components of the original work on time and do the following within one week of receiving the graded assignment back:
 1. Use the feedback provided and conference with me if help is needed.
 2. Revise your essay/assignment within one week and email the update to dbahl@psdschools.org. Comparisons of the original work and revised work will be completed and revisions should be significant enough to warrant a grade increase using the rubric provided.
7. Work Habits: Please see the Work Habits rubric we will create in class. Categories included are: Participation, Respect, Focus, Integrity, and Collaboration. Work Habits are worth 5 formative points each week.
8. Late work: I do accept late work, but it will be penalized by 10% for each day that it is late. By turning in late work, you may not be able to participate in classroom discussions that involve the work in question, and thus, you will lose points for not being prepared. Also, turning in late work removes the possibility of revision for a higher score.
9. Electronic usage: Cell phones and headphones/earbuds must be turned off and put away in class. The wall chart is where phones are placed. When you are on your laptop, you need to be on the designated screen. Any other usage (games, messaging, other assignments, videos, etc.), will result in working on paper and removal of the device. You are not allowed to record, take pictures, live stream, etc. in class. This is a violation of other's privacy and can lead to other problems for your classmates of which you may not be aware. Please remember to always respect others and their rights to privacy. Please also see the Work Habits rubric.

Grading

Grades are determined on a point system that includes class participation, completion of daily assignments, and completion of homework assignments. Grades are weighted (60% Summative, 40% Formative).

A= 100-90 B= 89-80 C= 79-70 D= 69-60 F= 59 and below

Please check your grade through StudentView. I always put the grades in there and not always on Google Classroom. You will find feedback on your assignments or personal message through Google Classroom.

Final Thoughts:

1. Be polite to everyone.
2. Everyone deserves respect and courtesy, including the right to speak in class without fear of being interrupted, ridiculed, recorded, or harassed. We can disagree respectfully and can ask for clarification of ideas.
3. Be especially nice to guest teachers.
4. Remember your purpose. Work daily toward that goal.
5. Always try your best and never give up.