

Course Description

- Read and discuss a wide variety of texts
- Perform close readings
- Write for a wide range of purposes and audiences
- Present ideas and research to the class
- Demonstrate your knowledge solo and collaboratively

Attendance

- Students are expected to attend class every day.
- Students are allowed **5 unexcused absences** per semester.
- Parent notes **are not necessarily** considered excused absences. Doctor's notes **are** excused.
- If you are absent without excuse more than 5 times, you need to attend seat time.

Grading Policy

- Major grades (60%)
 - tests
 - projects
 - larger collaborative assignments
- Minor grades (40%)
 - quizzes
 - classwork
 - homework
- The final exam is worth 10% of a student's final grade.

Make-up Work Policy

- Make-up work is any work not completed or turned in due to a student's absence.
- Students will be allowed to make up work due to absences that are excused or unexcused with no penalty within 5 school days.
- If a student misses work due to an absence, it is the student's responsibility to make up work within 5 days of returning to school. Any work not submitted within 5 school days is late.
- Alternative assignments may be given for assignments that cannot be made up.
- If a student is present on the day a test, quiz or project due date is announced and then absent on the day of the test, quiz or project deadline, he/she must be prepared to take the test, quiz or turn in the project on the day they return to school.
- Field trips and participation in other extracurricular events (such as athletics) are considered attendance days. Work missed due to such events can be submitted electronically. Items that cannot be submitted electronically should be submitted the following school day.
- Students who have 504/IEP/ESOL accommodations specifically allowing for extra time may exceed the 5 day window (talk to Mr. Anastasio).

Late Work Policy

- Late work is defined as work not turned in on time even though the student attended class.
- Any assignment not turned in on time will be deducted 10% off of the original grade earned for each school day the assignment is late, up to five days.
- After five school days, the student will be assigned a 0 for the assignment.
- Late work will not be accepted after the end of a grading quarter.
- Students who have 504/IEP/ESOL accommodations specifically allowing for extra time may exceed the 5 day window (talk to Mr. Anastasio).

Zeroes Aren't Permitted (ZAP)

- I do not allow students to fail to turn in major written assignments.
- If an assignment is not turned in on the date it is due, the student will be required to stay behind after school on Monday to finish the assignment under my direct supervision.
 - If a student fails to show up after school, their parents will be called.
 - See the separate ZAP info sheet for more information.

Required Materials for Class:

- Pens/Pencils
- Chromebook with charger (bring to class every day)
- 3-Ring binder for notes and assignments
- highlighter (optional)

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones must be kept out of sight. Students must place phones in their backpacks, and move backpacks to the back of the classroom. Using a phone in class will result in disciplinary action:

- First offense: warning
- Second offense and on: parent contact and referral for refusal to obey

Plagiarism/AI Policy

- Plagiarism is taking someone else's words or ideas and using them as your own. Whether copied from a friend, a book, or from the internet, plagiarism is academic dishonesty, and will result in disciplinary action.
 - Using AI resources such as ChatGPT to complete assignments counts as plagiarism.
- If caught plagiarizing, (1) the student will receive a zero for the assignment, (2) parents will be contacted, & (3) the student will be referred to an administrator with a referral for cheating.
- Students **will** be allowed to rewrite the plagiarized assignment for up to a grade of 50%.

Planned Texts

The following texts will likely be taught in class.

- *The Odyssey* - Homer - "While Odysseus battles mythical creatures and faces the wrath of the gods, his wife Penelope and his son Telemachus stave off suitors vying for Penelope's hand and Ithaca's throne long enough for Odysseus to return." (Cliffs Notes) (We will also watch clips from the 1997 movie)
- *Romeo and Juliet* - William Shakespeare - "An age-old vendetta between two powerful families erupts into bloodshed." (Shakespeare.org.uk) (We will also watch clips from the 1968 & 1996 movies)
- *Unwind* - Neal Shusterman - "Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, parents can have their child 'unwound,' whereby all of the child's organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn't technically end." (Goodreads.com)
- *Finding Nemo* (2003)
- *2081* (2009 short film adapted from "Harrison Bergeron", by Kurt Vonnegut)
- *Romeo & Juliet* (1996, dir. Baz Luhrmann)

Schoolwide Book List

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PnP6rlve6aUbilolz9sdMEGFYB0HmQbNINrZYOpf3Ag/edit?usp=sharing>

Contact Information

It's vital that I contact parents throughout the year about your child's progress. Please fill out the information below for my records. Please return this syllabus for a minor grade **by the first Friday of the semester.**

I, (student's name) _____ have fully read
and understood this syllabus.

I, (parent/guardian's name) _____ have fully read
and understood this syllabus.

Other parent/guardian's name: _____

Parent/guardian:
phone number - _____

email address - _____