

Course Syllabus
12th Grade Expository Reading and Writing
Mrs. Giordano Heritage 253
Email: kgiordano@murrieta.k12.ca.us

Course Description:

Welcome to your final year of high school English. This course meets UC/CSU and District graduation requirements for English credit and I expect all students to work with **integrity and honesty**. At all times you will show respect for the instructor and colleagues during discussion forums, show responsibility, and exhibit readiness as this is a quickly paced course, readying you for the EPT as well as the university system. An open dialogue is essential for success in this course, and I expect you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your ability to succeed in this course.

Expository Reading and Writing 12 will prepare twelfth grade students for college level work by requiring them to read extensively from challenging essays across the disciplines and to write analytically and critically about what they have read. Students will develop the skills to regularly produce accomplished essays that will be based upon expository readings. They will learn the features of the various rhetorical modes: description, illustration, comparison and contrast, analogy, definition, process analysis, argument and persuasion, and causal analysis. This learning will expand their repertoire for writing. A variety of essays will provide models for the rhetorical modes. Also included in the curriculum are full-length works from classical and contemporary literature such as Hamlet, Native Son by Richard Wright, John Adams by David McCullough, or Candid. At the completion of this yearlong senior class students should be prepared to meet the intellectual demands of the university.

Academic Dishonesty:

According to Karl Stolley and Allen Brizee of the *OWL at Purdue University*, **plagiarism** can include obvious actions, such as **buying, stealing, or borrowing a paper** (including, of course, copying an entire paper or article from the Web); **hiring someone to write your paper** for you; and **copying large sections of text** from a source without quotation marks or proper citation.

But can also include less obvious actions. Some of these include using the words of a source too closely when paraphrasing (where quotation marks should have been used) or building on someone's ideas without citing their spoken or written work. I will consider any form of plagiarism (whether it is homework, forum responses, and essays) as academic dishonesty. First offense will result in receiving an F on the assignment and referral that will go on your discipline record; second offense will result in a Saturday School and referral that will go on discipline record; and third offense will result in suspension and referral that will go on discipline record. Do not cheat. This act is taken very seriously!

Required and supplemental texts:

McGraw Hill Reader

Articles from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Los Angeles Times*

CSU EPT Preparation (handouts)

- ❖ Ethos, Pathos and Logos
- ❖ The Value of Life
- ❖ Juvenile Justice
- ❖ Going for the Look
- ❖ Racial Profiling

Literature Possibilities

- ❖ Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
- ❖ Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*
- ❖ George Orwell's *1984*
- ❖ Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild*

Grading System. Grades are based upon a weighted system. The following is the division of weights:

- ❖ **Participation**--10% (warm-ups and informal discussions)--**Part.**
- ❖ **Coursework and Literary Investigation**--15% (Hamlet, EPT Packets, McGraw-Hill SOAPSToneR packets, and other literary work)--**Lit.**
- ❖ **Assessments** -- 25%(quizzes, tests, formal discussions, presentations, etc.)—**Assess.**
- ❖ **Composition**--40% (personal statement and other expository essays)—**Comp.**
- ❖ **Final**--10%-- (Fall and Spring Cumulative Assessments)--**Final**

****Because errors can occur in record keeping, keep all assignments that are graded and given back to you. You are responsible for all work and I will not change an assignment grade unless you give me the graded assignment.**

Attendance/Promptness: Because each class begins with a warm up activity, students are expected to be in their seats prior to the bell, and to begin the warm up immediately. In addition to the school's policies regarding tardies, students who are late, and who do not have an excused note, will lose 5 points from their warm up grade. Excused absences must be cleared within 2 class meetings of the student's return to class. Students who have unexcused absences lose all points for that day's activities, including tests. Students who fail to clear an absence by bringing a readmit on time also lose the points until the absence is cleared by the student with the teacher, at which time they will be penalized half the points they would otherwise have earned for failing to have a readmit. If your parents are calling in your excuse for an absence, you will still need to pick up a readmit slip to clear the absence.

Make up work: I will allow **one** late assignment per semester. It must be turned in within one class meeting of the due date for half the points, which would have been earned if the assignment had been completed on time. No late work is accepted beyond that time. This penalty will apply regardless of the reason the assignment is late (e.g. computer malfunction), so plan accordingly and do not get behind on your work. **If you've had an excused absence, you must submit make up work within one day of your return from the absence to avoid the late penalty unless prior arrangements are made with the teacher. SUCH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE OUTSIDE OF CLASS TIME!!!** **Make up work will not be accepted following unexcused absences or truancies.** Tests and quizzes may be made up only following an excused absence, and must be completed during lunch or after school within two days of the return from the absence unless prior arrangements are made with the teacher.

Project Due Dates: Projects are to be turned in on the due date *whether you are in class or not*; your absence must be excused. If you have an unexpected absence, you may e-mail me an attachment of your work, and turn in a hard copy on the date you return.

Supplies:

Students will need post-it notes, highlighter, pen (blue or black ink), pencil, and notebook or section of a notebook with the following dividers: EPT, McGraw-Hill, Composition, Literature, Thinking Maps and Returned Work.

Citizenship: The moment students walk into the classroom, the highest standards for good citizenship are expected of them. Students should exhibit respect for the teacher, their fellow students, the work place, and, most importantly, themselves in all they do and say in this classroom. My expectation is that you will always attempt to do the right thing at all times, especially by respecting the right of the teacher to do the best possible job teaching you, and the right of other students to learn in the best possible environment. Additionally, students must follow the specific rules/consequences and procedures as outlined below.

General Expectations:

1. Come to class prepared to learn.
2. Use time wisely.
3. Follow directions promptly and politely.
4. Clean up after yourself.
5. Respect others and their thoughts, feelings, and property.
6. Follow all school wide policies and regulations.

For students who choose to violate the above expectations, one or more the following consequences will be applied at the teacher's discretion, and not necessarily in this order:

1. Warning.
2. Meeting with teacher during student's free time for:
 - conference.
 - written plan/apology.
 - other remedy.
3. Report to parents.
4. Detention assignment.
5. Administrative referral.

Please return the portion of this syllabus to me immediately.

Syllabus Confirmation and Movie Permission Slip

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number most convenient to contact you: _____

I understand and give permission for my student to watch the 1996 version of *Hamlet* and Sean Penn's 2007 production of *Into the Wild*.

Guardian Signature: _____

I have read and understand the criteria and expectations of the 12th Grade Expository Reading and Writing Course.

Guardian Signature: _____

