

11th Grade Expository Reading and Writing

Course Syllabus

Mr. Walsh – Room EE18

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Course Description: Throughout the year we will explore works of American Literature in the form of short stories, poetry, novels, drama and essays. California State Language Arts Standards based instruction will include reading, writing, listening, speaking, research and use of technology for presentations. In addition to surveying American Literature we will practice various forms of writing, including personal narrative, active reading, literary analysis, expository essays, rhetoric and creative writing.

Course Texts:

Glencoe (McGraw-Hill) *Literature: The Reader's Choice* (Blue Edition)

The Bedford Reader, Ninth Edition

Novels/Drama (three from this list):

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury

The Crucible, by Arthur Miller

The Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck

Supplementary Reading:

Every student must read a minimum of 1000 pages, per semester, beyond the assigned readings in class. This can be accomplished by reading one book of 1000 pages or several that add up to 1000 pages.

I will provide a list of novels from which you may choose. Most of them will be available from the school library or a public library, but I strongly urge you to buy your own books. They can be found at Barnes and Noble or online at Amazon, where you can often find used books for practically nothing!

Supplementary reading will be done in small groups, partially during a daily Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) segment of class. I will hand out more detailed instructions separately.

Materials:

- 3-Ring Notebook
(No need for separate notebook for this class unless it helps you get organized, but plan on keeping handouts, work in progress and graded work neatly organized).
- Pens and Notebook Paper
- Your Brain!

Requirements:

- Complete all assignments on time, including class work, homework and writing assignments.
- Participate in all group activities and class discussions
- Uphold the principles of CLASS in your personal conduct (You know what you should do and what you shouldn't – the rules haven't changed since Kindergarten! (See also: "Mr. Walsh's Rules"))

Grading Policy:

Grades are based on an accumulated point system. My curriculum uses the following approximate breakdown for emphasis of assessments:

Reading Information/Literature	30%
Speaking/Listening	20%
Writing	30%
Language/Conventions	20%

Honesty/Plagiarism Policy

Copying work from another source and claiming it is your own is NEVER permissible. The usual response by colleges and universities is to expel students, permanently, for a single instance of plagiarism. Do your own work – it's the only way you will ever know what you are really capable of doing. (See Student/Parent Handbook for school policy)

Attendance:

When you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the website for the work that was done while you were gone. Under the heading, 11th Grade Assignments, each assignment is numbered with the same numbers that identify assignments in the grade book. Click on the assignment number for any work you missed while absent and you will see a detailed explanation, and, if there was a handout, a link to that handout. You will have time to make up missing work equal to the number of days for an excused absence; work missed due to truancy, suspension or unexcused tardiness cannot be made up.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned as needed to supplement class work or complete an assignment started in class. When we are working on novels or other longer works, you will be expected to read assignments and complete dialectical journals prior to class discussion. When everyone is literally on the same page class discussions are lively and meaningful. If you fail to prepare for the discussion you will be lost during class and you will miss the opportunity to find meaning in the work.

Essays:

Longer essays must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, 12 point font, Times Roman, medium, one side of the paper. If you turn in an essay that does not comply with this Modern Language Association (MLA) format, you will have one day to reformat the essay and turn it in. After that it will not be accepted.

Conference hours:

My regular conference is period 3. I will also be available after school for questions and/or make up quizzes and tests. See me for an appointment.

Parents: Please contact me by email if you have any questions regarding this syllabus.