

*"Heroes are made in the hour of defeat.
Success is, therefore, well described as a series of glorious defeats."*

-Mahatma Gandhi (activist)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...a hero? What comes to mind when you hear that word? Is a hero simply a cartoon figure in a cape? Or could this title mean something more? In this class, we will start by defining the term "hero" before examining different types of heroic actions, the motivations behind said actions, the psychology behind heroism and altruism, and so much more. This work will take a variety of forms, which will allow us to explore different types of texts and styles of writing.

COURSE GOALS

- to continue to develop the ability to read critically, participate actively, think analytically, and write cohesively
- to learn how to develop and support powerful arguments in both discussion and writing
- to ask big questions and engage in honest and meaningful conversation that pushes us to new realizations

COURSE POLICIES

- **Attendance:** You are expected to show up to class every day. If you know in advance that you will be out, please come talk to me. When you are out, **it is still your responsibility to make up the work in a timely fashion.** You can do so by sending me an email at ksummerfield@scarsdaleschools.org
- **Materials:** Please come to class every day with:
 - a writing implement (pen or pencil)
 - a place to take notes and write (notebook, lined paper, etc.)
 - a place to hold handouts (binder, folder, etc.)
 - the text we are currently reading
 - your homework
 - an open mind
- **Homework:** The purpose of homework is to reinforce a concept from class, preview a text, or give you an opportunity to independently think/write/reflect on a topic. Since each assignment is purposeful, well-thought out, and will be discussed in class, **it is an expectation that you complete the homework each night.** Doing so will allow you to fully benefit from and participate in class each day.

- **Participation:** Active class participation (completing homework, contributing respectfully in discussion, etc.) is essential to having an interesting and productive class. Therefore, it will be counted as a portion of your grade. If speaking in class is something that you have trouble with or makes you nervous, please come see me to discuss.
- **Grading:** In a perfect world, there would be no grades, as feedback is much more valuable than letter grades in helping you grow as a student. Since it is part of my job to also give you a grade, each assignment you complete will have a point value associated with it (100 pts. for participation and larger writing assignments, ~20 pts. for smaller assignments, etc.) Your grade at the end of the term will be calculated by dividing total points earned by total points available.
- **Plagiarism:** I have an incredible amount of confidence in your ability to complete the work that I assign. Not only that, but I actually *want* to hear what you think of the material we are engaging with. Taking credit for someone else's work is not only unethical, but counterproductive to your growth as a person and student. We will review specific plagiarism policies before our first large assignment. If you have questions before that, please ask!
- **Have a question? Need help? Want to chat?** Send me an email at ksummerfield@scarsdaleschools.org or stop by my office in the English alcove (room 201B). I love having visitors and am always happy to answer questions, discuss assignments, look at your writing, or help in any way I can.

Looking forward to a productive, meaningful, and exciting year!