

Course Syllabus for Reading Foundations I/II

Andover High School

2016-2017

Contact Information

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Introduction

Welcome to Reading Foundations! I am excited to be your teacher this year, and I look forward to exploring the important concepts of critical literacy with you. I am here to challenge you and encourage you to think outside the box; please be prepared to work hard and do your best. If you do those things, I guarantee you will succeed.

This syllabus is designed to give you helpful information about many different aspects of the course, including contact information, policies and procedures, grading, and required assignments. **Please keep this syllabus for reference throughout the year.**

Course Description/Overview

Reading Foundation is a READING INTERVENTION course. All students in this class have been identified as at-risk/struggling readers using a variety of measures. The curriculum has been specifically designed to help students make at least 2 years of growth in an academic year.

The curriculum is based upon the MN K-12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts. Specifically, students will focus on meeting the reading standards that are embedded in the English Language Arts standards as outlined by the Minnesota Department of Education. Throughout the course, students will be expected to read widely and often, use critical thinking skills to analyze a variety of texts (primarily non-fiction), and communicate through writing and discussion.

In 10th grade, students will take the MCA-III reading exam. This important test measures students' progress towards meeting the reading standards. Essentially, this exam allows us to determine if students are on track to be college and/or career ready.

Reading Foundations is a two or three trimester course (depending on the reading level of the student when entering the course). **Once students repeatedly demonstrate proficiency/mastery of critical literacy concepts, they will be able to exit this intervention course.**

Policies and Procedures

In this class, you are expected to participate and challenge yourself in every aspect of the course. Engagement in a variety of activities and assignments is expected. You are also expected to be on time and prepared for class each and every day; this means you need to be in your assigned seat when the bell rings, with all of your materials (including assignments), ready to learn.

Classroom Rules

- ❖ Students will be on time and prepared for class (with all necessary materials);
- ❖ Students will respect and cooperate with others in class (i.e., no talking when someone is presenting - includes teacher and fellow students);
- ❖ Students will be attentive and actively listen during instruction;
- ❖ Students will avoid bringing items that distract from and/or disrupt learning. This indicates NO BACKPACKS, NO FOOD/DRINK, and NO PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES in class;
- ❖ Students will actively and supportively engage in class discussions and activities;
- ❖ Students will limit their passes out of the room;
- ❖ Students will wait to be dismissed (i.e., the first student to jump at the bell is the last one to leave 😊)
- ❖ Adjustments made as necessary.

Substitute Teachers

All substitute teachers will be treated with respect. Please remember that any work they ask you to complete is from ME, not them. Any consequences for misbehavior are DOUBLED if they result in class disruption when a substitute teacher is present.

Supplies/Necessary Items

- ❖ Pen/pencil
- ❖ Notebook
- ❖ Folder
- ❖ Planner (to set goals, track work, etc.). Please note: planners are **not** provided by the school.
- ❖ Independent Reading book (may be personal copy OR checked out from the IMC)
- ❖ Completed assignments, if applicable
- ❖ Additional materials as requested for specific projects/assignments
- ❖ Your BRAIN, WORK ETHIC, and a POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Grading

Grading Scale		Grading Categories
Letter grades are assigned based upon percentage of points accumulated:		Final trimester grades will be comprised of the following weighted categories:
90-100%	A	Assessments (Tests/quizzes) = 40%
80-89%	B	Formative work: ACHIEVE 3000 = 15%
70-79%	C	Formative work: Class Work/Activities = 10%
60-69%	D	Independent Reading = 25%
59% or lower	F	Common Summative Assessments = 10%

Late Work

In high school, there should be little or no late work. On the rare occasion that you do forget to complete an assignment, I will accept late work UP TO ONE WEEK AFTER THE DUE DATE. This 1-week extension is considered the deadline. Students may still earn full credit until the deadline; however, the assignment will receive a score of ZERO once the deadline has passed. Please do not make a habit of this. In the event you need an extension on a particular task or assignment, please see me **prior** to the due date. Extensions allow students to turn in assignments at a later date without penalty. However, extensions will be granted solely at my discretion; they are determined on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed, so be sure to speak with me as soon as possible.

Absent Work

While I am certainly here to help you get caught up after an absence, it is ultimately YOUR responsibility to determine what work you have missed. Please know that it is NOT appropriate to ask me what you missed during class time. We can talk about it before or after school or during passing time; **be sure to READ and write your daily reflection when you are absent.** Being absent does not excuse you from the day's work/academic expectations. Please remember - you are responsible for getting your work done and submitted for evaluation.

Required Assignments

In addition to regular coursework (including daily independent reading/reflection, Achieve 3000, and assessments (tests/quizzes), each student will be required to read, analyze, and present on 2 books each trimester as part of this course. Specific and detailed information on how to successfully complete these Book Talks will be provided.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to perform all work and tasks with academic integrity; that is, cheating is not permitted. The most serious form of cheating is plagiarism in which students submit someone else's work as their own. Some examples of cheating include (but are not limited to) copying answers verbatim (i.e., word for word), summarizing someone's else's work without giving them credit, looking/glancing at someone else's paper in or out of class, using other students' tests and/or papers to earn a grade, and using a cell phone or electronic device during an exam. In other words, cheating is defined as not doing your own work or trying to represent someone else's work as your own. **CHEATING WILL RESULT IN A ZERO "0" for the assignment and may result in further disciplinary action.** In short, cheating will not be tolerated.

Please note: In order to have an environment that is conducive to learning and that ensures every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the material without distraction, all students are required to remain completely silent during testing. This means that there is ZERO TALKING and/or non-verbal communication while ANY test remains out and in the hands of students taking exams. **TALKING OR USING AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING AN EXAM (even if the student is done with his/her test but other students are still testing) WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR THE EXAM AND A REFERRAL TO THE OFFICE.**

Final Note

All policies, procedures and protocols are subject to review and change, as needed. Please remember that these expectations have been established to provide a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. After all, that's why we're here!

In closing, I would once again like to welcome you to Reading Foundations. This year will be challenging, but I look forward to working with you as you continue to develop your critical literacy skills. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to talk with me. I am here before and after school, and I am here to help!

Student Name _____ Hour _____

Course _____

I have read the syllabus for this course and I understand the information contained therein. I acknowledge that I am responsible for knowing the information set forth in the document, including contact information, policies and procedures, grading, and required assignments. I also agree to keep this syllabus for reference throughout the year.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____