

# Science Fiction and Fantasy Composition Syllabus

## Reynolds High School 2024-25

**Instructor:** Annely Pereira

**Room:** 503

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**Website:** Schoology

**OFFICE HOURS—Tuesday - Thursday 3:45—4:30 PM or prearranged before school or during lunch**

Read and write about science fiction and fantasy literature relating to the future, visionary scientific endeavor, and fantasy worlds that interact with mythology and philosophy. Study contemporary issues in Science Fiction (artificial intelligence, technology, cloning, new Alternate Reality technology, human psychology in a futuristic environment), and multicultural influences/writers in modern Science Fiction and Fantasy literature.

**Major Concepts/Content:** Language Arts 12 is a required Senior course preparing students for the challenge of post high school graduation, college, or trade schools. In this year-long course, students become better readers, writers, and speakers both collectively and independently. Students read, write, and reflect on poetry, narratives, essays, and current events. Overall, this course demands active, critical, reflective, and creative thinking skills, high-level questioning, and real-world application activities. The focus of this year's literature and writings will have students

### **Recommended Materials for Class (Chromebook and Internet are required.)**

1. Notebook devoted to Sci/fi and Fantasy
2. Pencils, Pens, Highlighter
3. Computer with internet access
4. Two pocket plastic portfolio folder with prongs to hold papers in place
5. Small Post-it notes for taking notes in text

### **Grading**

#### **Percentage of Grade Points**

Projects & Summative Writing and Presentations: 75%

Daily Work & Weekly Formative Assignments: 25%

#### **Assessments:**

Formative Assessment: Homework, class discussions, and any other daily activities/assignments that promote skill development will receive constructive feedback (from verbal to written) These will comprise 25% of your grade each quarter.

Mastery Assessment: Essays, projects, and timed writings will be the base of the mastery score in this class. You will be given a clear due date for every mastery assessment in this class. The dates will be posted online and in the classroom. Types of assessments will include:

- Essays: These in-depth essays will include several drafts, revisions, feedback, and a submission of the best draft. *Students will be able to revise their best drafts to earn a better score*
- Timed Writing: Each quarter will conclude with a timed writing that will focus on the skills that were the target focus.

#### **Scoring breakdown: Rubric will be given for all Summative assessments**

6 Points= Mastery

5 points = Near Mastery/Exceed Proficiency

4 points = Proficient

3 points= Near Proficiency

2 points= Developing Mastery/ Developing Proficiency

1 point = Beginning Proficiency

### Letter Grade Descriptions

Grade Percentage	Scale Grading	Letter Grade	Description
90-100	6	A	The student fully understands the content and the course objectives have been mastered.
80-89	5	B	The student understands the content and course objectives at an above average level.
70-79	4	C	The student understands the course content and course objectives at an average level.
60-69	3	D	The student understands the course content at a below average level and a minimum of course objectives are met.
50-59	2/1	F	The student has not met a sufficient number of course objectives to pass a minimum level and receives no credit.
0		M	Students who do not turn in an assignment will receive a "0" score.

### Major units of study

*Note:* The scope and sequence is not set in stone and is subject to change depending on possible school closures or unforeseen circumstances. Should something change, we will move forward and be flexible.

Quarter One	9 Weeks
<b>Reading and Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Literary elements:</b> Characterization, theme, conflict, symbolism, defining characteristics of Fantasy writing and the elements of the Hero's Journey</li><li>• Fairy Tales and Legends</li><li>• Short format Fantasy literature (short stories from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> century)</li></ul>	
<b>Formative Assessments:</b> Including, but not limited to: Classwork, small and large group discussions analysis of literary elements, short story analysis	<b>Resources:</b>
<b>Mastery Assessments:</b> Short Answer Responses Narrative writing: Fairy tale or Fable	
Quarter Two	9 Weeks
<b>Reading and Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Literary elements:</b> Characterization, theme, conflict, symbolism, and the Hero's Journey</li><li>• Author's Purpose and place in the story</li></ul>	Texts: <i>The Hobbit</i> by JRR Tolkien
<b>Formative Assessments:</b> Including, but not limited to: Classwork, small and large group discussions analysis of literary elements, reading quizzes	
<b>Mastery Assessments:</b> Expository Essay: Literary Analysis of <i>The Hobbit</i>	

SECOND SEMESTER	
Quarter 3	
<b>Reading and Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Literary elements:</b> Characterization, theme, conflict, symbolism, defining characteristics of Science Fiction writing and the elements of the Hero's Journey</li> <li>Short format Science Fiction literature (short stories from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> century)</li> </ul>	<i>Binti</i> by Nnedi Okorafor
Quarter 4	
<b>Writing:</b> Literary Analysis/Expository Writing of <i>Binti</i> <b>Independent Research Project:</b> Short stories of 20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> century Science fiction authors	
<b>More Detailed outline to follow at the end of Semester 1</b>	

## Community Expectations

1. **MUTUAL RESPECT:** Respect goes two ways: from student to community, from community to student. This means the student respects their classmates, teacher, classroom, the day's lesson, and self. At the same time, the community shows respect to each student and their opportunity to learn. I trust students are doing their own work and following the day's lesson as best as they can. Furthermore, I respect each student's voice and invite contributions to the day's lesson. All members of the learning community will refrain from personal attacks and any form of bullying. During class presentation, break-out groups, and independent work time students are expected to put in 100% effort to be courteous and learn from their teacher and classmates. I, in turn, learn from my students.
2. **RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATION:** Students have a shared responsibility, along with myself, to build a positive and collaborative community. Each student is expected to be actively **ENGAGED** in listening, reading, writing, and speaking each day. Whether the speaker is me or a classmate, pay attention and be kind. If absent, that student is responsible for making up missing work by checking the electronic folders in Schoology or the file cabinet in class for the missing work and asking questions.
3. **Growth Mindset:** Students are not expected to be perfect, only to be actively working toward growth throughout the school year. Being flexible with each other is as important as pulling our own weight. As part of this expectation, **students may revise and resubmit any score they are dissatisfied with until the deadline at the end of each semester.** If a student would like to rework a mastery assignment past the semester deadline, I will be happy to meet with them one on one to discuss options.
4. **ORGANIZATION:** You are responsible for writing in your planner, bringing your *charged computer* and all materials to class including all handouts and documents I have given you.
5. **Handbook and Schoolwide Expectations:** Students must follow the rules and expectations in the Student Handbook. There are no expectations. This includes:
  - Being **PUNCTUAL** and attending class.
  - Following the classroom policy of putting phones away when they enter the room. Which means that phones should be in their bags unless specifically told they may have them out.

If you have any questions about the Student Handbook, please read through them together to fully understand school wide policy and expectations.

6. Please note that plagiarism is unacceptable in this course. Students are supposed to submit work that is entirely their own work and thoughts. **If a student plagiarized any part of their work, that assignment will not be graded, without an option to rework the assignment. This includes Mastery assignments.** Plagiarism includes copying other students' work. Because it is virtually impossible for me to know which student did the original work, both students will receive a "0" grade. I will notify the parent/guardians of the student. Plagiarism also includes submitting work created by Artificial Intelligence.

## 7. Work Submission and Late Work

In general, most student work needs to be submitted to me in my hand and in person, **not in Schoology**. There are few exceptions to this, and I will make that notation on the handouts for the assignment. I have created files in Schoology for looking at missing work, **but students are not to submit assignments in Schoology unless specifically told to do so.**

**There is a file cabinet in the classroom for students to access any handouts and work that students have missed.**

Students are responsible for meeting deadlines. However, due to the nature of gaps in learning and struggle to get back into the expectations of school students will not be penalized for late work during the first semester. **I will accept all late work in the quarter that it is given, so each quarter will have a hard deadline.** I ask students to communicate via email in a timely manner to guarantee late work is counted.

What if I'm absent? : If you are absent for a timed writing or any in class Mastery task, you will be expected to make it up the next day you are in class or during a makeup session that can be after school and during lunch. Students will have **two days** after they return to make up this work.

## Syllabus Review

After reviewing and discussing your LA 12: Science Fiction & Fantasy with your parents or guardians, please complete the following information and turn this paper in to Ms. Pereira by September 20th.

**Parent/Guardian:** *I have read, understand, and agree that my students will abide by the course syllabus and expectations for LA 12 Science Fiction & Fantasy.*

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you (if by phone please list the number) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student:** *I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the course syllabus and expectations for LA 12 Science Fiction & Fantasy. In addition, I understand that ultimately, I am in charge of my own learning and education, and therefore will put great effort toward being the most responsible and successful student I can be.*

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_