

Mystery/Fantasy/Science Fiction

Course Syllabus

Ms. Vonck (104)

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Course Description:

This one-semester course will analyze three of the greatest genres in the modern world: mystery, fantasy, and science fiction. We will examine the development of these genres over time through a variety of mediums, primarily books and films.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the history and development of the genres of mystery, fantasy, and science fiction.
2. To apply traditional English skills to untraditional works.
3. To delineate what qualifies a text as a member of a genre.
4. To understand the social impact of these genres on the modern world.
5. To apply understandings of each genre into unique mediums.

Texts and Required Supplies:

The following have been or will be purchased for you through your course fees:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon

The remainder of your texts will be provided by the school. Daily you will also need a charged iPad and notebook paper.

Grading Plan:

Grades will vary, but *generally* the grades will work as follows:

Quizzes/Tests: 25%

In-Class Work: 25%

Short Papers: 20%

Homework: 10%

Journal Entries: 10%

In-Class Discussion: 10%

Classroom Expectations:

Respect:

You will respect me, your classmates, and yourself at all times and you have the right to expect the same in return. Any form of disrespect will not be tolerated and will be punished appropriately.

Tardiness:

You are expected to be in class, seated, and ready to begin class by the bell. The following is the school policy for tardiness:

3rd tardy in a grading period: a lunch detention

4th tardy: a Wednesday detention

5th tardy: receives a referral to the office for a Saturday School, In-School Suspension, or Suspension

Absences:

If you are absent for any reason, you will have the same number of days you are absent to make up the work. **It is YOUR responsibility to arrange for and complete the necessary work.** When you return, ask another student in your class, then me, what you missed. If you missed a test, you must make it up as soon as possible when you come back. All assignments that were due while you were absent will be due when you return. Please email me while you are absent if possible.

Denial of Credit Policy for a Semester Course:

Any student who accumulates more than eight (8) incidents receives a zero (0) for that class period, for that day, and every day in excess of eight (8) days. No make-up work will be given, including tests and quizzes.

Late Work:

Policy on late work varies depending on the assignment. It is rare that I *stop* accepting an assignment. Generally, I will accept all assignments for partial credit.

Cheating:

Cheating includes: plagiarism, copying someone else's work or allowing someone to copy your work. You should do work individually unless indicated otherwise by me. On the first offense, both parties receive a zero on the assignment, quiz, or test **AND** will be reported to the offices and disciplinary action will take place.

Technology Use:

There will be times when we will be using technology for academic purposes. If I see a cell phone or iPad in use when they aren't allowed, I will take them until the end of class.

Dismissal:

Show respect by participating in class at all times. This includes the end of class! Do not pack up early. We will be working until the bell unless I tell you otherwise.

Mystery/Fantasy/Science-Fiction Course Outline:

****Subject to change**

- **Fantasy**

- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *Tales from Earthsea* directed by Goro Miyazaki (based on the book series by Ursula K. Le Guin)
- Short stories by Tamora Pierce, Neil Gaiman, and Ursula K. Le Guin
- Clips from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling
- Student creation of his/her own fantasy world

- **Science-Fiction**

- *Jurassic Park* directed by Steven Spielberg (based on the novel by Michael Crichton)
- Short stories by Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, and Octavia Butler
- *The Unearthly History of Science-Fiction* (BBC documentary series)
- Students will research a technological advancement and write a short sci-fi story based on it

- **Mystery**

- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon
- *And Then There Were None* (play) by Agatha Christie
- Short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allen Poe
- *North by Northwest* directed by Alfred Hitchcock
- Students will develop their own murder mystery for their classmates to complete