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English Language Arts - Course Syllabus 2022-23

Instructor: Jonathan Martin

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Room: 2109

Office Hours: Monday (3:25pm-4:10pm) Wed & Fri (2:35 – 4:00 pm)

Course Content

This semester students will effectively participate in the domains of written composition, oral expression, reading comprehension, grammar in context, and vocabulary development.

Text

The texts for the course are as follows:

- NewsELA, CommonLit, Achieve 3000
- Other related texts

About the Teacher

Briefly, I am a graduate of Waltrip High School, Class of 2002. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies/Professional Writing from the University of Houston-Downtown in 2011. Currently, in addition to teaching, I work as a professional freelance writer and photographer, and I am a founder and director of the Selahkeyah Multilingual Literacy Center for African and Semitic Languages. I am an avid real estate investor and world traveler. It is my belief that "knowledge is the principal wealth of Kings and Queens."

Ongoing Objectives

- By the end of this course, the student will have mastered the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as written in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for their English content.
- The student will also have gained an understanding of the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), including Writing, Reading, Listening, and Speaking skills, focusing on mastery for the state examination, future college admissions, and lifelong learning.
- Elements include sentence completion, essay writing, and critical reading. The student will increase his/her vocabulary base through the study of prefixes, suffixes, and words from the SAT high-frequency word list.
- The student will explore the modes of writing through a variety of essays, quick writes, and group work, in addition to reading a wide variety of literature, to enhance his/her knowledge of the literary world, heighten awareness of North American culture, and improve reading and writing skills.

Literacy Notebook

You are required to maintain an organized Literacy Notebook for the course. It will be submitted as a grade during each grading cycle. Parameters will be discussed in class.

Grading Scale

The grading system for the English Department at Waltrip High School is as follows:

- Tests, Projects, & Major Papers	40%
- Quizzes, Classwork, & Minor Assignments	30%
- Attendance & Class Participation	20%
- Homework	10%

(The above areas will be used as the basis for 80% of your grade per semester. The midterm and/or final exam will constitute the remaining 20% of your grade per semester.)

Classroom Expectations

1. Students will be in class on time prepared and ready to learn.
2. Students will complete all assignments, including homework, by all deadlines. Make-up work is only accepted after an excused absence. It is your responsibility to see me for your work before or after school.
3. All students will be silent and respectful while other students read aloud.
4. The teachers and students will work together for a respectful, safe classroom.
5. Participation in class discussions will enhance all students' learning experiences.
6. Students are expected to have all assigned readings completed; this may require some reading to be completed outside of the classroom.
7. Cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, and any other personal items are prohibited in class at any time.

Class Requirements

Students will be required to complete and pass writing assignments, research projects, tests/exams, and homework. Students will also be required to read outside of class, participate meaningfully and respectfully in classroom discussions, maintain good attendance, have a respectful and positive attitude, and come to class ready to learn!

Rewrite Policy

Any written assignment that receives a less than desirable grade may be revised and rescored, so long as it was initially submitted on time, a student-teacher conference has taken place, and the rewritten assignment is resubmitted in a timely fashion (no more than 3 days after the assignment was returned to the student).

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are considered serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct booklet for additional information.

Methodology

A combination of lecture, class discussion, presentations, videos, cooperative learning, and problem-based learning will be used in this course. Grades will be determined by the satisfactory and timely completion of assignments. The grade of each assignment is based on the prerequisite given for each assignment. Below is an overview of topic/ units and major assessments/assignments for this course. Please note dates/timeframes are subject to change and are an estimate.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are required; it is difficult to learn the content if you are not present in class. You class participation and attendance can be a deciding factor if your class average straddles two grades. Be sure to see me about any missed work if you are absent.

Daily Required Materials

1. laptop
2. pen
3. Loose-leaf paper
4. Literacy Notebook

Please acknowledge that you have read and understand the information explained above.

Student Signature
Print Name

Parent/Guardian Signature
Print Name