Language Arts (ELA) Grades 11 & 12 Syllabus

2017-2018/LADE

Mrs. Compson

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**Welcome!**

“... in reading great literature, I become a thousand men and yet remain myself.” - C.S. Lewis

Essential Questions that will guide this class through the year:

1. How can literacy (knowing how to read and write) influence your daily lives and the lives of others?
2. What connections can we make among fact and fiction, the past and the present, and our own lives and literature?
3. How can looking at different literary pieces expand awareness of ourselves and others and lead to more creative expression?

There is no one answer or even right or wrong answers to these questions. There are, in fact, many answers, based on one's experiences, background knowledge, values, and points of view. Throughout this course, I will ask you to think back on these questions, explore them, discuss them, listen to others' answers, and reflect on your own answers to them. It is my hope that the work you do in this course will enable you to answer these guiding questions knowledgeably and thoughtfully.

What to expect in this course:

We will focus on one major novel each semester of this course. In conjunction with these novels, we will read a few short stories, non-fiction accounts/articles, and poems. Lessons and assignments will include elements of literature (e.g., character, setting, plot, etc.), vocabulary, mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure), and grammar. Lessons will almost always include a form of writing: journaling, short answers, reactions, etc. Quizzes and various comprehension and writing assessments will be given throughout both semesters.

For this class, you will need a binder (1-inch or larger), binder dividers (5), lined paper, and pencils. **Please only use pencil** for all assignments; all other work will be done on computers.

Grading:

Grading for each week will vary depending on the assignments. Listed below is a brief breakdown of the types of assignments you will encounter in this class:

**Grammar/Punctuation/Vocabulary Quizzes: 25 points –** These weekly quizzes are based on Do Now concepts learned each week (grammar, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, etc.).

**Memrise Vocabulary Homework (online-based): 50 points**

**In-Class Assignments: 25-100 points -** It is best to at least *attempt* the In-Class to receive credit. Most of the time, if you at least try the assignment, you will earn some form of credit. On the other hand, if you don’t try, you will not earn any credit.

**Text Assignments/Quizzes: 25-100 points** – These assignments/quizzes will be given after reading and reviewing texts. Text assignments, which include papers and other projects, are considered major projects. It is critical that you complete all major projects for this course; failure to do so will result in an Incomplete for the semester.

Attendance and make-up work:

Being present is a pivotal part of passing this course. I recommend coming to class as much as possible so you do not miss important concepts, discussions, and assignments. According to LADE school policy, you may receive an Incomplete (I) grade (zero credit) for a course if you accumulate more than 10 unexcused absences, and this policy holds true in my class. Make-up work is not available for this course. However, you may access *some* unit readings on my website: **mrsrachelsclasses.weebly.com**. You will need to see me to make copies of any other readings, or you will need to access the readings on your own – online or at a library. You may make up quizzes as long as you negotiate a time with me, and two extra credit assignments per quarter are available on my website.

Passes:

I use a pass system because I want you to be in class so you are learning and getting the most out of your time here. It is surprising how much you can miss in only 5 or so minutes of class, plus breaks can cause unnecessary disruption to the flow of your learning and my teaching. So please make sure to use the bathroom, get water, go to the nurse, etc. during passing period. You will receive 3 passes per quarter, and I will keep track of how many you use. Each pass is worth 3 points, so you may accumulate these points and use them towards your quarterly grades by NOT using them. ☺

Cell phones:

Rule of thumb: NO cell phone use in class. Please have your cell phone(s) put away (in your backpack or in a pocket), in silent mode, and your earphones out of your ears *before* you walk in the door of this classroom. The *only* circumstance in which you may have your cell phones out without my permission is to show me your homework. Using your cell phone at inappropriate times or in ways that disrupt the class will result in write-ups and being sent out of the class. If there is an emergency call you need to make or answer during class, please let me know ahead of time and go to Ms. Ruth's office to handle it. If you answer a call during class without letting me know, you will be asked to leave and spend the remainder of class time in Bridges.

Classroom Expectations:

Overall, respect for each other and education is paramount in this class. You can expect that I will react to disruptions to any of these criteria. How I deal with inappropriate, disrespectful, and/or disruptive behaviors will be different on a case-by-case basis. You may not always agree with how I handle a situation, but please keep in mind that everyone and every situation is different.

\*I ask that you try to communicate with me before class starts if you feel you're going to have difficulty focusing and/or following expectations for any reason. Depending on the situation, it may be necessary for you to spend some time in Bridges to decompress, and that is OKAY! We all have bad days. ☺

\*\*This syllabus is subject to change depending on student and/or teacher needs.