

Course Description

School-wide Expectations:

2.2 Writing Clearly.

1.4 Integrating a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas.

1.5 Using technology as a tool to increase productivity and creativity.

Students will read literature that focuses on contemporary life and issues in the world today. Students will use library data banks to explore online journals. They will develop skills using Microsoft applications, including Word, PowerPoint, and Publisher. Students will utilize technology to demonstrate writing proficiency.

All other School-Wide Expectations will also be addressed in this class when and if appropriate.

Grading

Summative Projects and Tests: 40% of quarter grades – these assignments are graded using assignment specific rubrics based upon standard school wide expectations.

Quizzes and Essay Articles: 20% of quarter grade – these assignments measure periodic achievement, understanding, and current progress, and allow students to identify areas of strength and weakness before summative assignments.

Class Work: 20% of quarter grade – class discussions, group contributions, and other in school activities designed to learn class concepts and achieve learning goals take a wide variety of formats.

Homework & Homework: 20% of quarter grade – reading selections for future discussion, pre writing for class discussions, and stepping stones for larger assignments contribute to this grade.

Students who earn quarter averages of less than 60% will be asked to attend a support team meeting including parents/guardians.

Required Materials

Writing implements – blue or black pen and pencil, other colors are for personal work only

Highlighter – or other device for identifying important notes

Notebook – recommend spiral bound pad in a 3 ring binder and pockets (notebook checks are a quiz grade)

Assigned texts/reading – any materials currently studied in class are to be brought to each class

Work Submission Policy

All out of class assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Late homework assignments are -50%, then a 0, other assignments are 10 pts off each day late. Students should check the status of printers well before any due date.

Absence Policies

Work assigned before an absence is due the first day back unless there has been a parent/guardian meeting with school staff determining an alternative due date.

If you are absent when an assignment is given, you will have two school days after your return to submit the assignment as per the school handbook. You may also check the class website to see assignments and topics that you have missed.

If I am absent, do not turn any work in to a substitute, no exceptions. If you need to submit work and you will be out when I return, make arrangements at the high school office to place work in my mailbox.

Behavior and Effort Expectations

1) State of Connecticut policy: “All students graduating high school are “college ready.” This means pay attention, come to class prepared and on time, and do your best.

2) Throw away your own garbage at the end of class – dead pens, paper, etc.

3) You get what you give – respect, attention, grades, et.

Any minor behavior or effort issues will receive a yellow card as a warning.

Major issues such as swearing or damaging the classroom environment, or second minor offenses, will receive a red card and an immediate detention.

All office referrals are per the student handbook.

Computer Access

This class is entirely about technology, its creation, use, and possibilities. It is preferred that all students earn computer access. However, any students who refuse to do their pre-computer work will not be given access to classroom computers. Likewise, and student who violates the public’s trust in his or her use of computers purchased with town, state, or federal funds will be restricted from classroom computer use.

This copy is to be signed and kept in your notebook at all times.

I understand and agree to the requirements of this course:

student signature

date

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This copy is to be signed and dated by you and a parent/guardian before any grades will be assigned to you or you will be allowed access to classroom computers.

student signature

date

parent signature

date