**10th Grade Literature and Composition Syllabus**

Syllabus – January - May 2016

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**Classroom blog**: nickholmanx.weebly.com

**Classroom philosophy:** Language is how we, as humans, communicate. Written communication is more important now than ever before. In this class, students will improve in their abilities to communicate orally and in written form. To be a good writer, students must also be good readers. We will examine genres of literature from different eras and countries to analyze how language has changed and evolved over the years.

**It is extremely difficult to do well in this Lit class without reading the lit!** Read the texts that are assigned. Read the texts that are assigned! Read the texts that are assigned! Complete the assignments to analyze the literature and practice writing; consequently, your writing and reading will improve. Perfection is not the goal. Improvement is the goal. Did I mention that you need to read the literature?

**Grading System**

Summative (Tests/Essays/Projects) 45%

Daily (Quizzes/In-class assignments/homework) 25%

SLO/Final Exam 20%

Vocabulary/Language 10%

**Methods and Activities Writing Domains**

Class discussion/teacher-led instruction Technical

Study Questions Persuasion/Argument

Research Project Research Paper

Vocabulary and language building Creative narrative

Collective Creative Writing Reader response

In-class writing assignments and essays SAT practice essays (timed)

Individual conferencing Impromptu essays (untimed)

Grammar review Classification

Parallel Readings

**Required Materials**

The following are required for class daily:

* Textbook is provided and kept in class
* Vocabulary Book
* Parallel Reading
* Pen and pencil
* Three ring binder to keep organized – Keep everything!!
* 8 ½ x 11” college ruled paper
* Flash Drive
* Writer’s Notebook

**Manuscript Format**

Any paper that is turned in for a grade **must** follow MLA Manuscript Format. Know it now. You will use it throughout your high school and college careers. Failure to comply will result in grade reduction. Students will also submit designated assignments to turnitin.com.

**Make-Up Work**

The student is responsible for consulting with the teacher upon his or her return to class. S/he will be allowed to make up missed tests or quizzes before/after school and during lunch by appointment or during AO. Students are responsible for gathering work that was missed so that it may be turned in without penalty. The student will have the same number of days absent to make up any missed in-class assignments.

When an assignment (project, paper, test, vocabulary) has been assigned before the absence of the student, the work is due upon the student’s return. S/he will be expected to take the test if it has been announced before his or her absence.

Late homework will be penalized according to how late it is. Complete assignments as they are due for two reasons: to not fall behind and to keep up with and remain engaged in classroom discussions.

**Behavior Code**

At the sound of the bell, each student will be expected to be in his or her desk with books and assignments ready. Failure to comply may result in a tardy or detention. The student handbook will be followed with regards to any behavior violations or incidents of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated! If you quote from someone else’s work and do not cite it, then it is plagiarism. Know how to cite correctly to avoid accidental plagiarism. Never, ever try to pass off someone else’s words as your own. Intentional plagiarism will go before a plagiarism committee and may result in a zero for the assignment and ISS.

**Synergy**

Grades will be posted on Synergy in a timely fashion. Please note that essays and the research paper require extended time for grading. Parents are expected to check the progress of their child by utilizing Synergy. My blog will post weekly so that parents and students may keep up with classroom activities and homework assignments. Progress reports will be sent home every six weeks.

**Extra Help**

If a student feels he or she is not grasping a concept or having trouble with any assignment, *please* come see me for help rather than simply not doing it. I am available before school (I get here at 7:15), during AO, and after school by appointment. Take control of your education and get the help you need!

**Unit Plans and Parallel Readings**

I have planned thematic units of four weeks length, most of which will have parallel readings that are expected to be completed during the unit, giving students approximately four weeks to finish each novel.

Students are responsible for obtaining the parallel readings so as to be ready for the test and discussions. Over the course of the semester, the student will be assigned due dates for the reading completion. On the due date, s/he will be given an essay and/or test. Discussions and follow-up activities will occur after the test is given. Reading checks may also be given prior to the completion date. Selections are available in the Pope Media Center, the public library, and local book stores. Please contact me if you wish for your child to read an alternate work that will still fit with the theme of the unit.

Unit 1 – Gothic Literature

Parallel reading: Choice between *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Oscar Wilde), *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Robert Louis Stevenson), *Dracula* (Bram Stoker), *Interview with the Vampire* (Anne Rice), *The Shining* (Stephen King)

Unit 2 – Drama and Tragedy

 Primary text: William Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*

Unit 3 – Voices of the cultural “other”

Parallel Reading: *A Long Way Gone - Memoirs of a Boy Soldier,* by Ishmael Beah

Unit 4 – Satire

 Parallel Reading: *Ella Minnow Pea*, by Mark Dunn

Please obtain the above parallel readings and a copy of *Hamlet* (many students prefer the “No Fear Shakespeare” version with the modern translation on the left and the original text on the right) as soon as possible. I look forward to a productive and educational semester.

G. Nicholas Holman

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Please return this section with both signatures.

*I have read the classroom expectations, procedures, and policies*. *I am aware that grades will be posted in Synergy. I also understand that the aforementioned Weebly blog will be used to communicate classroom activities. I have reviewed the materials and books needed for the class and will obtain them as soon as possible for a successful semester.*

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Student Signature Parent Signature