



Syllabus
Literature & Composition 2
University City High School

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Course Description: This is a course designed for students whose reading and writing skills are on grade-level or above. We will read and study a variety of texts with a focus on the choices authors make about how they tell their stories. Students will improve their critical reading and analysis skills by making inferences, noticing patterns, and identifying themes. This new knowledge will be applied to your writing by developing clear claim statements and making purposeful decisions about your syntax, diction, and tone.

We are excited to communicate that we are continuing to work with a new ELA curriculum at University City High School. The SpringBoard Curriculum is developed by the College Board, the same organization that creates the Advanced Placement courses as well as the SAT assessment. It is aligned to college and career-ready standards and is rated as “meets expectations” by a highly regarded curriculum review organization. It offers opportunities to consistently read a variety of complex texts, engage in meaningful discussion, and produce various writing pieces. We’re excited about our curriculum and anticipate another great year of learning.

We would be remiss if we didn’t address the unprecedented school year that lies before us. Though there is uncertainty in our world today, we can promise you with absolute certainty that we will do our very best to provide you with everything you need to have a successful 10th grade year in Sophomore English. Although it will take some getting used to, just know that we will all settle in and find our comfort zones. While we are getting used to our “new normal,” all you have to do is show up to class Zoom meetings, do your best, turn in your work, and let us know when you have questions. Everything will fall into place soon enough, and we will have a positive and productive school year together.

Prerequisites:

- LC1 full-year credit

Texts (may include but are not limited to):

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| ❖ Steinbeck, <i>Of Mice and Men</i> | ❖ Rand, <i>Anthem</i> | ❖ Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> |
| ❖ Shakespeare, <i>Julius Caesar</i> | ❖ Houston, <i>Farewell to Manzanar</i> | ❖ Reynolds & Kendi, <i>Stamped</i> |
| ❖ Potok, <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> ; | ❖ Bradbury, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> | ❖ Other novels, plays, short |
| ❖ <i>The Chosen</i> | ❖ Sophocles <i>Antigone</i> | stories, nonfiction, and poetry that |
| ❖ Wright, <i>Native Son</i> and <i>Black Boy</i> | ❖ Dumas, <i>Funny in Farsi</i> | are deemed necessary by curriculum |

Instructional Methods Include:

- Project-Based Learning
- Socratic seminar & group discussion
- Student presentations/performances
- Quick Writes, journaling, and other informal writing
- Independent choice reading
- One-on-one conferences with teacher
- Peer response groups
- Writing workshop
- Formal writing (multi-draft and sometimes researched)
- Debates
- Visual, multi-genre, and performance projects
- Timed writing or “writing on demand”

Academic integrity

Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and presenting them as your own. In conjunction with the Discipline Handbook and UCHS English Department policy, a student who submits plagiarized work will receive an automatic ZERO, a referral, and a call home. Everything you write should be 100% your own words and ideas; if it’s not, you must cite it accordingly using MLA citation. Even copying or “borrowing” a sentence or two—or just a phrase from the internet or someone else’s writing—is considered plagiarism.

Cheating is using the thoughts/ideas/answers of someone else and presenting them as your own.

Cheating can take the form of asking someone for answers, talking during a test, copying homework or allowing your paper to be copied, all forms of plagiarism, such as using technology (internet, text messaging, etc.) to look up or exchange answers when you are expected to present your own work. Cheating on a test, homework, or any other graded work will result in an automatic ZERO and notification of your principal and your parents. Please note: If you allow someone to copy your work for any type of assignment, both students will receive equal consequences (stated above).

Term Grading:

- 30% Formative (homework, quizzes, class work)
- 70% Summative (Exams, essays, projects)

Semester Grading:

- 90% Cumulative Term Grades
- 10% Semester Exam

Absences & Make-up Work:

If you are going to be absent from class, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to:

1. Turn in any work due during your absence upon the day of your return to school. *Please note: If you are absent the same day a major assignment is due or presentation is to be made, you will be penalized unless other arrangements have been made with me in advance.*
2. Obtain any work missed during your absence upon the day of your return to school (at the latest).
3. Turn in your make-up work.

General rules for success:

- Choose a “homework buddy” and exchange phone numbers and email addresses. Then you can arrange to borrow and copy notes/handouts/etc. from him/her when you’re absent.
- When possible, let me know you will be absent in advance.
- Make every effort to avoid being absent! Good attendance is key to academic success!

Homework: Expect an average of approximately 20-30 minutes of reading and/or writing daily. Homework is due at the **beginning** of each class period unless otherwise instructed.

Google Classroom and Turnitin.com:

Notes and assignments will be posted in Google Classroom. Final essays are to be posted in turnitin.com with no greater than a 10% similarity report.

Late Work:

Work is considered late if it is not handed in by the requested due date and time. For instance, if an assignment is requested at the start of class, it is considered late if you hand it in after the start of class. Late assignment penalties and subsequent make-up opportunities will vary according to the type of assignment (See below.).

Finalized Assignments: Finalized assignments are not necessary to the operation of the class. For instance, final drafts of essays and final drafts on projects always fall under this category.

Preparatory Assignments: Preparatory homework consists of any reading or writing assignment that is necessary to the functioning of the class. Reading homework is always preparatory unless the teacher informs you otherwise. You need to read the materials assigned by a certain day so that specific class activities can be performed by students and their classmates. Some writing assignments will fall under this category too. The teacher will always indicate whether or not a writing assignment is preparatory in nature. Preparatory assignments cannot be made up.

Accommodations:

To support the participation of children with disabilities, accommodations or modifications will be necessary for accessibility to the reading, writing and speaking curriculum. These accommodations and modifications are individualized and are designed to support each student's academic success.

Assignment and Point Expectations (per quarter)						
	Close Reading/ Text Annotations	Vocab work	Socratic Seminar	Constructed- Response Writing	Reading Comprehension Quizzes (MC)	Unit Assessment
Formative (30% of grade)	50-100 pts.	10-50 pts.	20-50 pts.	20-50 pts.	50-100 pts.	
Summative (70% of grade)			20-50 pts.	20-50 pts.	50-100 pts.	100 pts.

“I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence.”

Frederick Douglass



