

## Course Overview: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

Mr. Mark Isakson  
isaksonm@edmonds.wednet.edu  
www.mrisakson.com

### Overview

Welcome to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts! This year promises to be both exciting and challenging, and we look forward towards exploring language, culture and ourselves through novels, short stories, poetry, film, and music. 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts is often described as a World Literature course with an emphasis in British Literature, however, I have a suspicion that we will spend much of our time invested in Latin American Literature. This course is designed to help you write in a variety of formats and genres, and we will be writing extensively. Please see the handout on The Writing Portfolio for more information.

The following list of classroom activities and questions somewhat is open; I hope to allow this course to take shape with your involvement! Let me know what you are thinking about, what is of interest to you, and what you'd like to know.

Some of the Essential Questions we will be examining through literature, film and music are...

- ...how do history and culture shape who we are?
- ...how do race, class, sex and gender impact our daily lives?
- ...how do texts and themes interact?
- ...how do individuals and societies function together?

Some Texts We Will Be Using (though there will invariably be others...)

- *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien
- *Othello*, William Shakespeare
- *Reading and Writing From Literature*, John E. Schwiebert
- *Rear Window*, *Psycho*, *Vertigo* Alfred Hitchcock
- *Slaughter House Five*, Kurt Vonnegut
- *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, Gabriel Garcia Márquez

### Class Expectations

*General Guidelines for your success...*

- Be sure to arrive on time. We will begin with a warm-up activity which cannot be made up, and will count towards your final grade.
- Leave all electronic devices in your bag. This includes, but is not limited to; Ipods, cell phones, PSPs, CD players, Walkmen, portable DVD players, and home stereo equipment. There is a time and a place for all these, but the classroom is not one of these places. Visible electronics will be sent to the principal's office.
- Participate! Make a point of being engaged in class discussions and group projects.
- Be an advocate for your own learning! If you have questions about a subject, concerns, or are generally confused, say something; we're always happy to clarify.
- Adhere to MTHS's policy regarding Academic Honesty. See your Handbook for more information.
- Please remove hats and hoods.
- Complete your own work and turn it in on time.
  - Plagiarism will be taken very seriously. The first offense will result in a loss of credit on the assignment containing plagiarized material, the second offense will result in a conference between the offending party and school administration, as well as a possible loss of course credit.
  - Late work cannot be turned in for points. It can, however count for credit. This is important, as I believe it is necessary for *all* work to be turned in before a student can be considered eligible to complete extra credit assignments. Simply put, I believe that extra credit should, in fact, be *extra* credit.
- Be respectful of the classroom and your peers; I will strive to meet your expectations, and I expect that you will do the same.

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### *Grading*

Course grades are based on weighted point scores from assignments, assessments and class participation:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • The Writing Portfolio                   | 50% |
| • Journals, Class work, and Participation | 20% |
| • Outside Reading                         | 10% |
| • Senior Project                          | 20% |

Grade Checks will be available before or after school. Please do not ask during class.

### *Outside Reading*

During this semester, each student will be responsible for completing one (1) novel outside of class. This novel must be approved by myself by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Upon completion of your novel, you will be expected to participate in a book talk and complete a literary analysis of the piece. Simply arrange a time, bring your book, and be ready to talk about it!

### *Assignments*

Expect homework regularly. Due dates will be given both orally and in writing on the board. You are responsible for making sure you know what the homework is for the evening.

If you have missed a class period, it is your responsibility to find out both what we have done and what the homework is. In general, you should know what each week looks like on Monday, so you will know in advance what needs to be completed. I will also endeavor to send out regular Monday emails. Sign up if you want to receive them.

### *Hall Passes*

Hall passes will be issued to students as needed. However, please do not ask for hall passes in the first or last five (5) minutes of class. As a rule they will not be issued during these times, though exceptions will be made for emergencies. Please sign out with the date and time you leave.

I reserve the right to revoke pass privileges if they are chronically abused.

### *Tardies and Absences*

Both excused tardies and unexcused will make it difficult for you to succeed in this class. You will be issued two (2) tardy passes that will be covered in detail. If they are both used, I expect you to sign in and spend time with me during lunch or after school.

### *Make-Up Work*

If you have missed class as the result of an excused absence, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed. Check on the wall for missed assignments. Due dates will be prorated for the number of days for which you have excused absences. Major assignment due dates will remain the same. Again, exceptions will be made in the case of emergencies.

### *Late Work and Extra Credit*

Late work will be accepted for credit only, unless accompanied by an excused absence pass. Extra credit will be offered periodically, but can only be completed if all other assignments have been turned in.

### *Final Thoughts*

I look forward to working with you this semester; it promises to be both challenging and exciting, and I encourage your input! If you feel that the class would benefit from your knowledge, let us know. You are a wealth of information, and we hope that I can learn from you too.

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(Sign and Return)

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I have read this course overview and agree to abide by the policies outlined therein.

\*\*\*Please Write Legibly!\*\*\*

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Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email Address