Honors World Literature

English 10 Syllabus

2014-2015

Teacher: Erica Womer

Room: 203

Website:

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Course Description:

Welcome to Honors World Literature 10. In this class we will be exploring World Literature using a variety of themes with the goal of helping us to better understand ourselves as individuals, as well as the world around us. In order to accomplish this goal we will be reading a variety of texts including novels, short stories, poetry, non-fiction, government documents, speeches, and plays.

Works we will cover in this class may include (but are not limited to):

*Things Fall Apart*, Achebe, Chinua (Nigeria)

“The Penal Colony,” Kafka, Franz (Czech Republic, moved to Austria)

“The Diary of a Madman,” Lu Xun (China)

*1984 or Animal Farm*, Orwell, George (Great Britain)

*Woman at Point Zero*, Saadawi, Nawal El (Egypt)

*Persepolis,* Satrapi, Marjane (Iran, moved to France)

*The Merchant of Venice,* Shakespeare, William (England)

*Night*, Wiesel, Elie (Romania, moved to United States)

 “The Struggle to be an All-American Girl,” Wong, Elizabeth (United States)

Various Current Events Articles

Various Poetry

Additionally, assignments in this course will be designed to continue your development into clear, effective communicators. Every person has a unique point of view and valid ideas; in this class you will be expected to share your thoughts. With this goal in mind, there will be weekly assignments focusing on vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

Assignments & Grades:

1. Vocabulary and Grammar

In this class, there will be weekly vocabulary and grammar assignments, the contents of which will be assessed with quizzes, **given each** **Monday**.

2. Literature and Reading

As this class is literature based there will be a heavy amount of reading required of you as a student. This reading will be completed in a variety of formats:

1. Independent Reading Novel

**You will read two novels independently of the class throughout the course of this semester**, one during the third quarter, and one during the fourth quarter. The novel you choose to read is up to you, however you will be held accountable for the reading by turning in weekly reading logs, **due each Friday**. A handout on reading log requirements will be provided.

Additionally, at the culmination of each quarter, you will be required to create a project/presentation concerning your independent reading novel. Handouts on these projects will be provided.

While there will be some time provided in class for you to both read your independent novel as well as work on your presentation, you should not rely on this time. Your independent novel will very likely require time outside of class to complete.

1. Literature Circles

There will be times when the class breaks off into several groups (literature circles), each group reading a different text. When assigned a literature circle group, that group will be responsible for the specific story/essay/etc. they are given. The group will read the piece of literature together and will present a group project to the class focused on their assigned text.

Though each group may be assigned a different piece of literature, there will, in general, be a common theme throughout the group of writings which will allow for class discussion.

1. Class Read

There will be times when we are all reading the same text as a class. This will be the case with larger, more challenging texts. When the class is reading the same piece of literature, students will sometimes be responsible for reading portions of the text outside of class. **Material read outside of class will sometimes be assessed for completion by pop quiz.**

1. Current Events

In this class we will be reading current events articles once a week. On these days, class discussion and your writing journal response will revolve around whatever article we are reading.

3. Writing Journals and Independent Reading Logs

This class will be very writing intensive. In order to communicate more quickly and effectively, each student will be required to maintain a notebook which they will use to complete journal entries, small informal writing assignments, etc. You will sometimes be required to share with partners, small groups, or the class.

Writing journals will be composed on various topics; sometimes the topic will focus on a text that we are reading, while sometimes you will receive a writing prompt and respond.

Your writing journal should contain your vocabulary and grammar work as well. **This journal will be collected every other week and graded.**

4. Essays and Research Paper

In addition to journal entries and informal writing assignments, students will also be expected to complete essays and one research paper. More information regarding these writing assignments will be provided on separate handouts.

5. Projects

You will be required to complete several projects throughout the course of this semester. Some (such as your independent novel projects), will be completed individually, while others (such as the ones you will complete for readings you are assigned with a literature circle group) will be completed with other students. More information regarding these assignments will be provided on separate handouts.

6. Participation, behavior, following directions, etc.

You will start each week with 100% participation and behavior grade. You may potentially lose points throughout the week for failing to adhere to the classroom rules and/or failing to follow directions. Points may also be lost due to a disrespectful attitude toward the teacher or your peers.

7. Tests and quizzes

Tests and quizzes will be utilized in this class to prove content knowledge. Tests will always be scheduled; you will be informed of the date assessments will be given several days prior to the exam. Quizzes (focusing on the content of a particular piece of writing), however, may be administered unannounced. For this reason it is important to come to class each day prepared with the previous day’s work.

**\*\*\*There will be no talking during tests or quizzes. Talking equals an automatic zero. \*\*\***

**Due dates for all assignments will be posted in the classroom and on my website.**

Materials:

The following materials will be required for class. Have them with you when you enter the room at the beginning of the class period each day:

* Laptop provided by the school
* Writing utensil (pencil/pen)
* Binder or notebook to maintain class notes, handouts, and other class materials
* Independent reading novel
* Novel, short story, etc. if we are currently reading one in class

Classroom Rules:

1. Be in class and in your seat ready to begin **ON TIME**. Being on time to class is not optional; it is a requirement. Class start times are as follows:

 Period 1: 7:45 Period 3: 11:35

 Period 2: 9:30 Period 4: 1:10

If you are late to class, you are required to have a pass, otherwise you will be written up. Whatever reason you are late, enter quietly and take your seat; class has already begun so do not interrupt instruction or work-time.

2. Upon entering class, read the agenda that is posted on the projector screen. If there is a Do-Now, start working on the assignment.

3. No technology is permitted to be in use without permission. **This includes your laptops!** While technology will be utilized in class very frequently, it should be put away by the beginning of class unless otherwise directed by the teacher.

4. If you need to leave the room for any reason during class you need to have a pass and sign out on the sign out sheet. When you return to class, enter in a non-disruptive manner.

\*\*\*Leaving class excessively throughout the class period will result in the loss of that privilege. \*\*\*

5. Food and drink should not be out in class without teacher permission.

6. Respect yourself, the people around you, and your surroundings. You will be expected to exhibit respect for both the teacher as well as your classmates. Address the teacher and your peers in a polite manner and treat property within the classroom with care; the furniture as well as the materials (books, decorations, etc.) were either purchased by the school district or the teacher.

1. Do not talk when the teacher is talking.
2. If you have a question, or something to contribute to the conversation, raise your hand and wait for the teacher to call on you. If you have questions about an assignment, please wait to ask them until the teacher is finished giving instructions; your questions might be answered in the directions.
3. When having class discussions do not talk over your classmates. Be respectful of opinions different than yours and listen with an open mind.
4. Foul language (swearing, derogatory language/slurs) **are unacceptable for any reason** and will not be tolerated in the classroom setting.
5. Bring all materials to class. This means the binder or folder you keep handouts in, the notebook you take notes in, writing utensils, your laptop (in your book bag), should all be with you when you come into the room at the beginning of the class period.
6. Sharpen your pencil during down time, NOT when the teacher is talking or when discussion is being held.

7. Grades concerning late assignments will be handled in the following manner:

1. Classwork, homework, weekly independent reading logs, and writing journals will be handed in **on the day the assignment is due for full credit** and **one day late for half credit (the maximum grade able to be earned being a 50%**). Assignments turned in later than this will receive an automatic zero.
2. Papers and projects will be handed in **on the day the assignment is due for full credit, one day late starting at a 90%,** and **two days late starting at an 80%**. Assignments turned in later than this will receive an automatic zero.
3. Missed assignments due to absences:
	1. It is your responsibility to retrieve assignments you may have missed due to absences. Extras of any handouts, worksheets, etc. should be available at the front of the classroom. You will need to ask the teacher or a classmate if you have missed notes, writing assignments, etc.
	2. You will be given **two days** to make up any classwork or homework missed due to an absence unless specifically told you have additional time by the teacher. After your two days are up, the regular grading policy regarding late work will apply.
	3. You will be given two days to schedule a time to make up any tests or quizzes missed due to absences. **Failure to contact the teacher within two days of your return to school in order to schedule a make-up time for tests or quizzes will result in receiving a zero for that assessment.**
	4. Projects, papers, etc. will not be turned in late due to absences unless specifically told otherwise by the teacher. If you are going to be absent for any reason on the due date of a large assignment such as a project or paper, arrange to turn it in early or email it on the due date. The regular grading policy regarding late work will always apply to projects, papers, etc.

8. ALL OTHER SCHOOL RULES APPLY.

Failure to adhere to any of the above rules will result in disciplinary action being taken. Disciplinary action may include:

1. A verbal warning
2. Moving the student’s seat
3. Disciplinary referral
4. Contact parents
5. Being sent to the office
6. Serving time after school

\*\*\*Do not waste my time or the class’s time. Come in and put your best effort into your work. If you take time away from the class, you will be required to serve double that time after school with me.\*\*\*