SYLLABUS (2014-2015)

Overview

The Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) is a full-year college preparatory English course for high school seniors. This class focuses specifically on preparing you to engage in critical reading and critical writing identified by the California State University (CSU) English Placement Test Committee, and to prepare you to meet the expectations of college and university faculty.

Course assignments, organized into modules and based largely on non-fiction texts, emphasize the in-depth study of expository, analytical, and persuasive reading and writing. The University of California has approved the ERWC for Area “b” credit of the “a-g” requirements; this course meets college preparatory requirements for both UC and CSU campuses.

Over 50% of incoming freshmen in the CSU system alone are currently required to take remedial English courses due to the lack of preparation for university-level reading and writing. The goal of the ERWC is to prepare you effectively for the rigorous levels of both reading and writing that will be expected of you while attending college.

You will be expected to increase your awareness of the rhetorical strategies employed by authors, and to apply those strategies in your writing. You will read closely to examine the relationship between an author’s argument or theme and his/her audience and purpose, to analyze the impact of structural and rhetorical strategies, and to examine the social, political, and philosophical assumptions that underlie the text. By the end of this course, you will be expected to use this process independently when reading unfamiliar texts and writing in response to them.

Texts

Course texts include a variety of genres including novels, contemporary essays, newspaper and magazine articles, editorials, reports, assorted public documents, and other non-fiction texts; however, the class will focus predominantly on expository texts, which you will encounter in many of your college classes. When reading texts, you will develop an understanding of literary terminology, improving critical thinking skills. Various fiction and non-fiction pieces will be a part of the year’s curriculum, including, but not limited to *1984* and *Brave New World.*

Writing and Grammar

Writing is an integral part of this course and will be done on a daily basis. You will be expected to complete journals, timed writing, literary responses, persuasive and expository writing. Major writing assignments will include, but not limited to, literature projects, research papers, and the Senior Research Paper. All formal papers and writing assignments must be submitted on, or before, the specific deadlines. These assignments must be in appropriate MLA format. All work, including outlines, rough drafts, peer editing sheets, and rubrics, are to be attached to the final paper.

Assignments

You will be expected to complete all assigned reading and writing in order to properly contribute in class and maximize your potential and academic growth.

*Reading Rhetorically:* Be prepared to engage in pre-reading, reading, and post-reading activities.

*Connecting Reading to Writing:* Strategies to identify relevant information to formulate an argument.

*Writing Rhetorically:* Activities will support pre-writing, writing, revising, editing, and evaluation. This will include: in-class essays, formal essays, ant eh Senior Research Paper (2nd Semester).

Assessments

The majority of your exams will be essays. Rubrics will be made available to you and discussed before, during, and after writing. Vocabulary and grammar will be assessed in the context of your writing throughout the year, including essays, journals, and exams.

Grades

90 - 100 % A
80 - 89 % B
70 - 79 % C
60-69 % D
0- 59 % F

Late Work/Extra Credit/Extra Help

All assignments will have specific deadlines. Unless otherwise stated, assignments will be accepted late up to five (5) days after the set deadline (including weekends), with a 50% penalty. Assignments submitted after the extension will receive no credit. Make sure that you pay close attention to deadlines. If you have questions regarding any assignment, please see me.

My Web Page

It is important that you stay apprised of all assignments, exam dates, and various projects. To find my web page, do the following:

· Type in: mrscurranohs.weebly.com

Plagiarism Policy

Academic honesty should be foremost in your core values as you complete your assignments, tests, and quizzes. Assignments that are determined plagiarized will receive a zero, a referral will be given to the appropriate administrator, and your counselor and parent(s) will be notified. Please note the school policy.

Recommended Materials

· A spiral bound journal
· Highlighters (multi-color)
· Blue/Black pens - Several
· College-ruled paper

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is my pleasure to teach your son/daughter this year. Your student’s success in this class is my highest priority. Please review this syllabus with your student, sign, and return this week. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail or telephone during the course of the school year (cell, emails, and school number are \shown at top of syllabus).

Parent/Guardian Signature:

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

Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact information:

Please give me the phone numbers and email addresses where I can reach you:

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