

12th grade Academic English: Literature, Society and Self
Course Syllabus and Requirements

Ms. Sorrentino-Sutton

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Welcome to Literature, Society, and Self! Hopefully, you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. This semester we will examine how society shapes our individual lives through reading the works of contemporary writers.

Syllabus

<u>Unit Titles</u>	<u>Genre</u>	<u>Works to be Studied</u>
Is Big Brother Watching? (approximately 10-20 days)	Novel Film	<i>Brave New World</i> , Aldous Huxley <i>Hotel Rwanda</i>
YOLO (approximately 15-25 days)	Dystopian/ Science Fiction Short Film	“Harrison Bergeron,” Kurt Vonnegut “The Wife’s Story,” Ursula K. Le Guin Student-Selected Works “2081” <i>Vocabulary Workshop, Level H</i>
Marginalized Voices (approximately 15-20 days)	Memoir Nonfiction Documentary Film	<i>The Glass Castle</i> , Jeannette Walls <i>Enrique’s Journey</i> , Sonia Nazario Student-Selected Works from Literature Circle Library <i>Vocabulary Workshop, Level H</i> <i>Which Way Home</i> (documentary) <i>Sin Nombre</i>
CSI: Critiquing Social Issues (approximately 20-25 days)	*Research Paper Grammar/Writing	Student-Gathered Articles and Resources Teacher-Generated Resources, including Instruction on Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

*Students must complete the research paper assignment in order to pass the course.

Assessments

The activities for each quarter will total approximately 300-600 points. Grades will be determined according to the following weighted assessments:

- Writing assignments: These will count for approximately 35% of a student’s marking period grade.
- Tests/quizzes: These will count for approximately 35% of a student’s marking period grade.
- Homework assignments: These will count for approximately 15% of a student’s marking period grade.
- In-class assignments: These will count for approximately 15% of a student’s marking period grade.

Class Binder and Readers Write Journal (Due Wednesday, August 29th, 2012)

Students are expected to keep an organized binder or folder to store all class materials including notes and handouts. Class notebooks should contain three labeled sections: Literature, Research Paper, and Vocabulary. Students are also expected to keep a Readers Write Journal and respond to class prompts in the journal throughout the semester.

Literature Circles

At several points during the semester, students will be required to read a self-selected book during SSR time and outside of class. Students will be provided with 10-20 titles that relate thematically to the curricular text being read by the whole class. The purpose of literature circles is to connect classic and contemporary literature and to provide students with choice in reading material, which research shows increases student engagement in reading. Parents are encouraged to discuss these books with their children in order to monitor their selections and engage in thoughtful dialog about literature.

Academic Honesty Policy

If a student includes ideas or words that are not his/her own in an assignment, s/he must document them according to the Modern Language Association (MLA) handbook. **Plagiarism of any kind (including copying another person's work, either directly or by paraphrasing, without citing the source) will not be tolerated.** In cases of group work, a student is responsible for any assignment bearing his/her name. Therefore, students working in groups must be certain of an assignment's authenticity before submitting it. According to the Unionville-Chadds Ford Student Handbook, the penalty for violating the academic honesty policy is a zero on the assignment and a Saturday detention. In cases of plagiarism, there will not be an opportunity for the student to complete an alternative assignment in lieu of the plagiarized assignment. Students who plagiarize are ineligible for National Honor Society. Two cases of plagiarism in the same course can lead to failure of the course.

As standard practice, every writing assignment completed for this course should be submitted the night before it is due on the plagiarism-check website TurnItIn.com. Log-in information and class passwords will be distributed to students during the first week of school.

Homework

Short- and long-term homework assignments will be given throughout the semester to reinforce concepts learned in class and generally will not be graded. Random homework checks will be conducted. **No credit will be given for late homework assignments or those completed by students during the first few minutes of class the day the assignment is due.**

Late Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Projects and writing assignments submitted to the teacher later in the period or at the end of the day the assignment is due will be considered one day late. If a student fails to submit a composition or project on time, one letter grade will be deducted for each day it is late. No credit will be given for late homework assignments. If there are special circumstances please let me know beforehand, and we will make specific arrangements regarding the assignments and their due dates.

IMPORTANT: Do not rely on completing or printing an assignment in the library or writing center the morning it's due. These places may be closed or the equipment may malfunction, neither of which will be considered an excuse for late assignments.

Absent Student Policies

If you are absent on the day of a quiz or test, but you were present in class when the material was presented, you must take the test the day you return. If you have an excused absent on the due date of a project or written assignment, you must submit it on the day you return. If you are absent for several days, you have the same number of days you were absent to make up any missed work. If you have an unexcused absence on the day an assignment is due, you will receive a zero on that assignment.

Hall Passes: At the beginning of each marking period, each student will receive a hall pass. The hall pass entitles that student to leave class to use the lavatory or visit his/her locker three times during that marking period. In order to leave class, the student must have the teacher initial in one of the boxes. At the end of the marking period, if any boxes remain un-initialed, the student may turn in the hall pass for one extra credit point (not percentage point) per un-initialed box.

Please read Student Handbook for additional policies and procedures.

This page must be returned to Ms. Sorrentino-Sutton by Wednesday, August 29, 2012.

I have read the course syllabus for Ms. Sorrentino-Sutton's English class on the previous two pages. I fully understand all of the policies and agree to abide by these regulations for the 2012-13 fall semester.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Film Permissions

In order to help students visualize and comprehend the literature they will be reading, **selected scenes** from the film *Sin Nombre (2009)* will be shown. Please indicate your permission for your student to watch this film. If you have questions about the scenes that will be shown in class, you may contact me at esorren@ucfsd.org.

_____ I give my permission for my child to watch the film listed above.

_____ I do not give my permission for my child to watch the film listed above. I understand that s/he will complete an alternate assignment instead.

Student Name (Printed)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date