

Ms. Akashian

LANGUAGE
ARTS

2018-2019

Course Content

Students who engage in and reflect on their learning will leave this course as better readers, writers, listeners, speakers, and critical thinkers. They will interpret others' meaning, and communicate their own, with context in mind.

Reading

We will read from a variety of complex texts, including thematic fiction, issue-driven non-fiction, and student-chosen texts. This course is based on the idea that, the more you understand a text or issue, the better able you are to write about it.

Writing *multa paucis*

This class emphasizes writing. We will work specifically on strategies for organization, development, and style. Students will share their writing with people, including peers. Assignments will target various audiences and usually be associated with what students are reading.

Vocabulary and Grammar

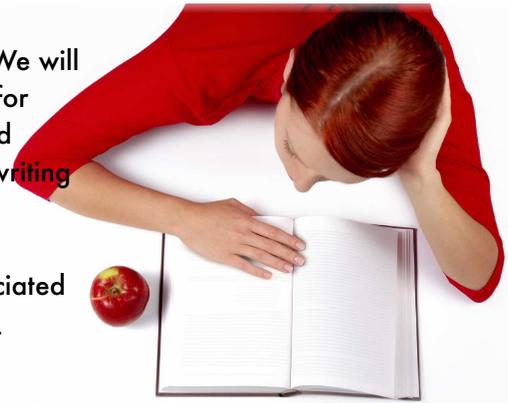
Except for some key academic vocabulary (words that help students understand and do school assignments), vocabulary instruction will be related to the texts we read. There will be ongoing grammar instruction, but, instead of traditional exercises, it will often be linked to lessons on writing style.

Critical Thinking & Discussion

Students will learn and practice how to usefully contribute to class discussion in an informed and logical way. Appropriate, respectful, thoughtful, open-minded and regular engagement in class discussion is a primary way that students will consider various perspectives on a topic, clarify their understandings, and prepare to write.

Reflection

Reflecting on learning helps students remember what they've learned and use that learning outside of class. We will respond almost daily to questions like these: What did you learn today? What strategy helped you to learn it? Where else can you use what you learned?



Classroom Decorum

alterum non laedere

I expect from each of my students responsible, respectful behavior. Do listen when others are speaking, control your impulses, and clean up after yourself. Don't waste others' time, use insulting language, or interrupt the flow of class. Please bring an appropriate attitude to classroom discussion. Do the simple things like grooming before class, bringing necessary materials, being in your seat at the bell, keeping your desk clear, and leaving all your electronics stowed (or I'll collect them!).

Weighted Grading

Writing	35%
Tests & Projects	25%
Discussion & Reflections	18%
Homework & Classwork	17%
District Assessments	5%

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Grades Are Online

Please use **Infinite Campus** to check your grades. You should do this as needed, at least once a week. If you have a question about a grade, ask that question within one week after it is posted. Please note that daily class summaries will be posted in the blog of **my school website**.



Policies and Procedures

Attendance *tarde venientibus ossa*
Please see the student handbook for the school policies on tardies and make-up work due to absences. You can also reference the Day 1 presentation that is available in the "Course Info" folder on my school website.

Homework
If students are assigned a book to read, whether it is a class novel or independent reading, they are expected to read every night. However, I will not assign other types of homework every day. That means that the homework I do assign is important; usually, it will be necessary for whatever we do in class the next day. That is why homework will be accepted on the due date only. Therefore, students should make good use of their school planners to keep track of homework assignments. Most writing assignments completed at home, no matter the draft, should be typed and in MLA style, printed before you reach class. Writing assignments that require printing will always be given with at least two days to complete the assignment.

In-Class Work
There will be pop quizzes, particularly on homework reading, designed to give credit to those students who have prepared for class. Some in-class assignments will be for participation points; students may lose these points for unfinished assignments, for coming to class unprepared, for wasting their or others' class time, or for time lost due to disciplinary

reasons. Participation points are not lost during excused absences. Please note, class discussion falls into a separate part of the weighted grade.

Online Homework Assignments
There will be several, but always assigned with at least two days to complete them. If you do not have a computer at home, you have internet access in classrooms and the library.

Other
For other classroom rules and expectations, please see the Day 1 presentation available in the "Course Info" folder on my school website.

Remind

Parents and students can add themselves to Ms. Akashian's Remind account to get class updates and homework reminders via text message or email. See my website for class codes.

Late Work

Each student will be given two personalized stickers. Each one, when attached to an assignment, serves as a pass to turn that assignment in late, up to one week past the due date. Papers will be accepted, but for reduced credit – 10% off up to 50% off, depending on how late. This means every student may turn in two late assignments – but ONLY two late assignments – over the course of the semester. Please do not lose your stickers since they will not be replaced, and use your stickers wisely.

Grading Policy

acta non verba

1. Assignment Grades

Major papers are graded on the 5-point scale of the TVUSD rubric. 5 = A, 4 = B, 3 = C, and below 3 does not pass. Tests are graded on the traditional 90%, 80%, 70% scale.

2. Course Grades

As District policy states, 90% is an A-, 80% a B-, 70% a C-, and below that an F. Please see "Weighted Grading" on the reverse for how grades are calculated.

3. Extra Credit

It is seldom offered. You need to pass the course based on your ability to do the required work. Extra credit will never change a 69.9% or lower.

4. Cheating & Plagiarism

Either will result in a zero on the assignment with no possibility of make-up and a U citizenship mark. This includes copying fellow-students on group-work and using the words of someone who "helped" you on a writing assignment. These behaviors forfeit the possibility for recommendation letters.

Contact Ms. Akashian

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School Phone:
951-302-5151

Website:
use the link from the school home page