



The
FACING
HISTORY
School

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English Language Arts (11th Grade)

Syllabus - 2018-2019 Home and Exploration

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Student Syllabus:

Course Description- Home and Exploration-11th Grade

This Junior level 11th grade English course entitled “*Home and Exploration*” Deconstructs gender identity, discrimination and female empowerment through a wide variety of lens. This course will explore the female perspective through the use of film clips, primary and secondary research, poetry, rap and daily news juxtaposed with historical events. Using high level research strategies, helps students engage in college level thinking,

research, debates and socratic seminars. Additionally, by developing sophisticated vernacular (Vocabulary) through the use of questioning and discussion exercises, mock trials and role play, these strategies will enhance critical thinking during the brainstorming stage of the essay writing process. Finally, Formative and Summative (tests and quizzes) will be used by the teacher to periodically assess skill level and to prepare students for the English Regents and Performance Based Assessment Test (both are graduation requirements) These academic activities will be done in a engaging and student friendly environment, while focusing on the following essential questions given for each unit of study:

Essential Questions

1. What strategies can we use to make writing come alive for our reader audience? (**WritingWorkshop**)
2. How can an individual form an identity that remains authentic for themselves? (**Like Water for Chocolate**)
3. Is organized religion used as a manipulative tool to control the masses? (**The Crucible**)
4. What are some strategies that demonstrate high expectations and responsibility for meeting PBAT deadlines?
5. Is there a price for obtaining freedom from oppression? If so, what is it? (**A Thousand Splendid Suns**)
6. How can women overcome the myth of “female fragility” to become empowered in a heteronormative society? (**Eyes Were Watching God**)
7. Are cultural stereotypes used as a form of social control to exacerbate racial jealousy and profiling amongst the less entitled in society? (**Othello**)

Class Norms/Expectations & School Norms

This class will adhere to all policies in the Facing History Student Handbook, including the common grading policy, attendance, tardiness, cell phone usage, uniform, etc. As seniors, we expect that you know these rules and the consequences for breaking them already. In addition, to create an environment where everyone can be successful the three following rules are essential:

RESPECT - for yourself as a student, for your classmates, for your teachers, and for the classroom. Respecting yourself means controlling what you say or do. Respecting your classmates means using appropriate language and helping others. Respecting the teacher means listening to directions the first time and not talking during instruction. Finally, respecting the classroom means no gum, food or drinks, except water. This means that the classroom is a clean, pleasant place where you can concentrate on learning. We will have fun while remaining appropriate in our language and behavior.

PREPARATION – As seniors, you should be familiar with school structure. You must come to class every day, on time, in uniform and with the appropriate materials (binder, paper, pens). We are preparing you for college and jobs where you will be responsible for keeping track of deadlines, making up missing work, and seeking out help when you need it (see office hours above). Also, as in college, turning in assignments late or plagiarism (using someone else’s work without giving credit) will result in serious consequences.

Please COMMUNICATE before there is a problem. If something is happening in your life that is keeping you from doing your best, please talk to us after class or during lunch, or send an email and we will do our best to help you, adjust deadlines, etc. However, you must be responsible and reach out. We can’t offer help if we don’t know what’s going on.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

1. Loose Leaf /Composition that tears neatly
2. Pens (Blue or black ink ONLY!!)
3. Highlighters
4. Thumb drive
5. Thesaurus or dictionary
6. White out (Optinal)

FHS Grading Policy

The school-wide breakdown and minimum number of graded assignments to be entered into Google classroom by the end of the cycle are as follows:

- 20% Classroom independence / Interdependence- Minimum of 20 graded assignments (at least 2 per week) *these can include journals, class participation, group work, independent work, class discussions, presentations etc.*
- 20% Homework- Minimum of 20 graded assignments (at least two graded per week)
- 30% Formative Assessments- Minimum of 5 graded assignments (at least 2 graded bi-weekly)
- 30% Summative Assessments- minimum of 2 graded tests bi monthly

Book Abstracts:

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

This classic love story takes place in Mexico on the De La Garza ranch. Mamma Elena has a cultural tradition which states that the youngest of the family cannot ever marry but instead must remain and be caregiver for their parents. This causes a rash of conflicts for the young protagonist named Tita who is repressed once she comes of age and is prohibited from having a social life. The story is told using magical realism. Recipes begin each chapter and foreshadow the events that will soon follow.

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

This play is set during the 1600's and takes place in a fictional town in Salem Massachusetts. The plot focuses on a group of girls who live in an oppressive religious society which has social rules of conduct that women must follow. The plot is underway when it is rumored that the young women of the puritan village may or may not have committed a sin in the woods. Although the play gives the reader a glimpse into what a religious theocratic society is like for women during this particular time period, It also focuses on a secret adulterous love affair between two of its characters.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

This story takes place in Afghanistan during the rise of the Taliban in the early 1990's. Hosseini's story captures the intimate details of a world where women are subservient to men and must adhere to strict Islamic culture or be publically punished either by brute force or death. Amongst these daily struggles of war and bodies laying everywhere, two women are married to the same man. These women silently and proudly refuse to adhere to the restrictive cultural and heteronormative tradition exclusive only to men. One will sacrifice her life to save the other so that she can be free.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Their Eyes Were Watching God takes place in Eatonville Florida during the early 1900's. This novel is the best known work by African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston. The novel narrates the story of the main character Janie Crawford's, "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny." It does this through the use of southern dialect, symbolism, metaphors and instances of colorism. In the end, Janie makes it through a severe obstacle but learns how to be strong in the process.

Othello by William Shakespeare

This story takes place in 16th century Venice and also in Cyprus begins in the city of Venice, at night. Iago, an ensign in the Venetian army, is bitter about being passed over for lieutenant in favor of Cassio. Iago tells Roderigo that he serves **Othello**, the Moor who is the army's general, only in order to serve himself. Iago sets out to take revenge for the snub by Othello and uses Roderigo to help him. In the end, Othello is viciously set up by his best friend Iago who uses Othello's jealousy to bring him down. Othello is so sick with remorse that by the end of the play all are doomed.

