

10th Grade English Syllabus



Teachers' Contact Information

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Course Overview

This is a literature course that will look at novels, poems, plays, and nonfiction texts dealing with the themes of rebellion and reconciliation. First semester we will consider how people's identities are shaped by their contexts. We will look at how identity influences a person's perspective of others. In the second semester, we will examine how individuals use their communal ties to make choices in difficult times. We will focus on strengthening creative and formal writing skills and enhancing our reading skills by using close reading strategies. Throughout, we will engage in rigorous reading, writing, thinking, and discussion. And in June we will be taking the ELA Common Core Regents.

Unit 1: Personal Narrative

Essential Question: Which experiences shaped who I am?

Text(s):

- 6 word memoirs
- Model personal narrative

Major Assignments:

- B-Layer: Create 6 word memoir
- A-Layer: Write a personal narrative based on a 6 word memoir

Next Generation Standards:

- 9-10R1, 9-10R4, 9-10R5, 9-10R9
- 9-10W3, 9-10W4
- 9-10SL1, 9-10SL2
- 9-10L5



Unit 2: *Drown* by Junot Diaz

Essential Question: How do my experiences strengthen or weaken my compassion for others?

Text: *Drown* by Junot Diaz

Major Assignments:

- B-Layer: Literary Analysis Essay
- A-Layer: Socratic Seminar



Next Generation Standards:

- 9-10R1, 9-10R2, 9-10R3, 9-10R4, 9-10R9
- 9-10W5
- 9-10SL1
- 9-10L3, 9-10L4
- 9-10L5, 9-10L6

Unit 3: Non-Fiction

Essential Question: Are we born the way we are or made that way by our experiences?

Text: TBD

Major Assignments:

- B-Layer: Argument Essay
- A-Layer: Debate

Next Generation Standards:

- 9-10R1, 9-10R4, 9-10R6, 9-10R8, 9-10R9
- 9-10W1, 9-10W2, 9-10W5, 9-10W6, 9-10W7
- 9-10SL1, 9-10SL3, 9-10SL4, 9-10SL6
- 9-10L3, 9-10L4, 9-10L6



Unit 3: Portfolio

Essential Question: What skills and ideas have I developed this semester?

Major Assignments:

- B-Layer: Cover Letter
- A-Layer: Portfolio Presentation (Socratic Seminar/Google Slide Presentation)



Next Generation Standards:

- 9-10R1, 9-10R2, 9-10R9
- 9-10W1
- 9-10SL1, 9-10SL4, 9-10SL5
- 9-10L3, 9-10L6

Unit 5: *Macbeth*

Essential Question: Does influence from others absolve a person of their choices?

Text(s): *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

Major Assignments:

- B-Layer: Trial
- A-Layer: Regents-style Argument Essay

Next Generation Standards:

- 9-10R1, 9-10R2, 9-10R3, 9-10R4, 9-10R9
- 9-10W1, 9-10W5,
- 9-10SL1, 9-10SL2, 9-10SL3, 9-10SL4
- 9-10L3, 9-10L4, 9-10L5, 9-10L6



Unit 6: Poetry as Activism

Essential Question: How can I use my voice to make a change?

Text(s): “I am Offering this Poem” by Jimmy Santiago Baca, “Caged Bird” by Maya Angelou, “Afro-Latina” by Elizabeth Acevedo, “Easter 1916” by William Butler Yeats



Major Assignments:

- B-Layer: Poetry Analysis
- A-Layer: Create and perform a poem

Next Generation Standards:

- 9-10R1, 9-10R2, 9-10R4
- 9-10W4, 9-10W5
- 9-10SL1, 9-10SL2, 9-10L4, 9-10L5

Unit 7: Regents Prep

Essential Question: How can I apply my reading and writing skills to prepare for the Regents?

Major Assignments:

- Part 1: Multiple Choice
- Part 2: Argument Essay
- Part 3: Literary Analysis

Next Generation Standards:

- 9-10R1, 9-10R2, 9-10R3, 9-10R4, 9-10R6, 9-10R8, 9-10R9
- 9-10W1, 9-10W5, 9-10W7
- 9-10SL1, 9-10SL3, 9-10SL4
- 9-10L3, 9-10L4, 9-10L5, 9-10L6



Required Class Materials (*You are expected to purchase and bring these materials to class no later than Tuesday, September 18th.*)

- A folder
- Loose leaf paper or a notebook with perforated pages
- Black or blue pens or pencils; highlighter optional

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to be positive members of the learning community. This means coming prepared to be fully engaged on a daily basis and following the community values. This implies that students will be in full uniform before entering.



Expectations	Consequences
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Arrive promptly and prepared for class2. Do not talk when someone else is talking3. Stay awake and engaged4. Raise your hand to participate5. Do not insult your peers (be supportive!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Verbal Warning / Move Seat - This could be public or private2. One-on-One Conference - This could be during class or student lunch3. Call home and/or sent to Courtney/Admin office

Attendance in class is mandatory. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to complete the work you missed. The work will be available in the classroom or on Google Classroom or PupilPath. If you need extra support, there will be office hours for you to check-in with the teacher.

If you are **late to class** because you were with an adult, ensure the adult writes you a pass. If you are late for no good reason, please come in. Don't waste more learning time trying to find a pass. Multiple latenesses will result in a call home.

Cellphone / Headphones Policy

Cell phones and headphones are allowed in the school building but must be locked in your lockers. If you have your cell phone or headphones out during class, **they will be taken EVERY TIME.** Sometimes you'll be allowed to listen to music when you work, but you will be given permission to

do so. There will NEVER be a warning or a comment like, "Put your cell phone away." **The teacher will ask for your phone or headphones and what will happen depends on how you respond.**

The teacher will either keep it until:

- a. the end of the class period then give it back to you before you leave
- b. the end of the day then give it back to you when you come get it after 8th period
- c. turn it into the admin office/dean office

FHS Grading Policy

The school-wide breakdown and minimum number of graded assignments to be entered into PupilPath by the end of each semester are the following:

- **Learning Activities:** Classwork, Participation, Homework (C Layers)
3-5 activities each week = roughly 60 to 80 per semester
- **Formative Assessments:** Quizzes, Short Writing (B Layers)
2-4 rubric guided assignments per unit = roughly 8 per semester
- ***Summative Assessments:** Exams, Extended Writing, Projects (A Layers)
1-2 per unit = roughly 6 per semester

Bathroom/Water Fountain Policy

No students can use the bathroom/get a drink of water during the first 10 minutes of class or last 10 minutes of class. Only one person is allowed to be out of the classroom at a time. You must ask the teacher for permission without interrupting the class and take the pass.

Homework Policy

Students will be assigned homework assignments. These assignments will always be checked and are used to prepare you for a future class. If you have questions about an assignment you have options! Ask a classmate, stay for tutoring, and/or email the teacher.

If an assignment requires a computer and you do not have access to one, the New York Public Library has computers free to use: 742 10th Avenue, between 50th and 51st streets.

Missed/Late Work Policy

If student's work is submitted after the deadline, it will be accepted but will not be able to earn a grade higher than 85% for the assignment. If a student misses a deadline due to a medical emergency, they must submit a doctor's note in order to waive the late penalty.

Plagiarism (Copying) and Cheating

- Copying and pasting someone else's words from the Internet to your assignment or paper is plagiarism if you do not cite the author and where you got the information from.
- Copying someone's ideas by putting the ideas in your own words is also plagiarism if you do not cite the author and where you got the information from.
- Copying another student's work is plagiarism.
- Cheating on an assignment, quiz, test, etc. is, well, cheating.

All of these acts are **forbidden**. Students will be required to meet with the teacher and admin team (Dana, Calee, and/or Kristina), and will take a zero for the assignment. Your parent and guardian will be notified as well. Students will have the opportunity to redeem themselves by completing an alternate assignment option to be chosen by the teacher.