



The  
FACING  
HISTORY  
School

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12<sup>th</sup> Grade English

Facing History School English Department

2018 -2019 - Fall/ Spring Semester

Instructor: Roslyn Claxton

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Tutoring: **By appointment**

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1C3fTi3jChE2OQJwAfY8foy27S7EKpu-HbV8F3d2K\\_bw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1C3fTi3jChE2OQJwAfY8foy27S7EKpu-HbV8F3d2K_bw/edit?usp=sharing)

### **Course Overview- Entitled - Conflict and Cooperation (12th Grade)**

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This class entitled, *Conflict and Cooperation* is a 12<sup>th</sup> Grade English course which focuses on: College intensive reading and writing methods, constructing newspapers, multigenre papers, debates, socratic seminars and vocabulary. The study of mental disorders is also an advanced method of study used to help analyze character behavior both in a text as well as in the real world. In addition, films, dramatic role-play and questioning and discussion techniques are other methods used in the brainstorming process for writing college level essays. These techniques help to prepare students for college, the English Regents Exam or the, Performance Based Assessment Test (PBAT). In order to Exceed Standards effectively for 12th grade English, students will become amateur psychologists by analyzing, subliminal messages (commercials) and decoding ulterior motives. All of the above skills are done within a “student friendly” environment around a series of essential questions designed for each unit.

#### **Facing History Essential Questions:**

1. What strategies can we use to make our writing come alive for a reader? (**Writing Workshop**)
2. Do modern science have a tendency to play God in their noble attempts to cure humanity? (**Flowers for Algernon**)
- 3 Is an immigrant’s cultural individuality lost once they choose to assimilate to become American? (**O. Wao**)
- 4.How do cultural ideas about beauty by the dominant society affect individual development in the black community? (**The Bluest Eye**)
5. Can trauma in childhood motivate nefarious individuals to manipulate their environment? (**Richard III**)
6. What strategies can we model that will demonstrate high expectations and responsibility for meeting PBAT deadlines?

## **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 and 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 Skedula 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, classroom 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).

### **BOOK ABSTRACTS:**

#### **Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes**

**Flowers for Algernon** by Daniel Keyes is told in first person narrative about a man named Charlie Gordon who is mentally challenged. Charlie has been chosen as the perfect subject for an experimental surgery on his brain. Researchers hope this new and untested procedure will increase Charlie's intelligence. The procedure is risky and highly successful when tested on a Lab mouse named Algernon. The experiment appears to be a successful scientific breakthrough until Algernon suddenly deteriorates, foreshadowing a flaw in the experiment and impending doom for Charlie.

#### **Richard III- William Shakespeare**

This play takes place in England during the 1400's. It begins with the ending of the War of The Roses; a bloody 20 year war fought between two rivaling families; The Yorks (white roses) vs. The Lancasters (red rose). Both houses want power and to win the throne of England. The most famous speech is made by the play's villain and said at the very beginning of the play. The villain, who is a trusted family member, secretly plots to destroy all, while everyone is celebrating their victory and heads begin to roll.....

#### **The Brief Wondrous life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz**

The story takes place both in New Jersey and the Dominican Republic during the 1930's. The main idea is centered around the De La Garza Family who endures severe traumatic experiences for several generations due to the result of a generational curse called a "fuku." It is believed that the curse was placed on the family by the infamous dictator Trujillo due to disobedience from a family member of the De La Garza family in the past. Because of the grandfather's disobedience, a series of horrific

#### **The Bluest Eye- by Toni Morrison**

*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison tells the story of a family of outcasts, called the Breedlove family. Pecola Breedlove is a young girl growing up black and poor in the early 1940s. She is repeatedly called "ugly" by nearly everyone in her life, from the mean kids at school to her own mother. This constant criticism, the relentless bullying she gets at school, and her rough family life (her parents are always fighting, both verbally and physically) lead Pecola to seek escape from her misery by fantasizing about becoming more beautiful. Pecola begins to believe that if she could just achieve

physical beauty, her life would automatically improve. This false belief turns out to be utterly destructive to Pecola, consuming her whole life and, eventually, her sanity.