



MURRAY HIGH OPEN DISCLOSURE 2020-2021

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WE ARE SPARTA!

Dedicated to serve, participate, achieve, and respect!

Course Objectives & Learning Activities

“What matters most are the opportunities we can give students to make sense of any text and to see the immediate relevance of those texts to the urgent conversations of now.” – Tricia Ebarvia

Welcome to sophomore English! This year will be unlike any other! While there are a lot of unknowns and apprehension, our goal is to make this year as successful as possible for you as a student. Let’s work hard, be adaptable, and be give each other grace.

In this course, students will be expected to read, write, and think critically about both fiction and nonfiction texts. We will use the Core standards that are organized by the following strands: Reading Literature, Reading Informational Texts, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language.

Our goal is to produce critically thinking students who can thoughtfully and skillfully articulate knowledge and understanding in writing. We will also use literature as a means to examine ourselves and the art of the written word to create passionate, informed students and citizens.

Students will focus on major literary forms, analyze the literary themes, and research and compose papers, speeches, and presentations.

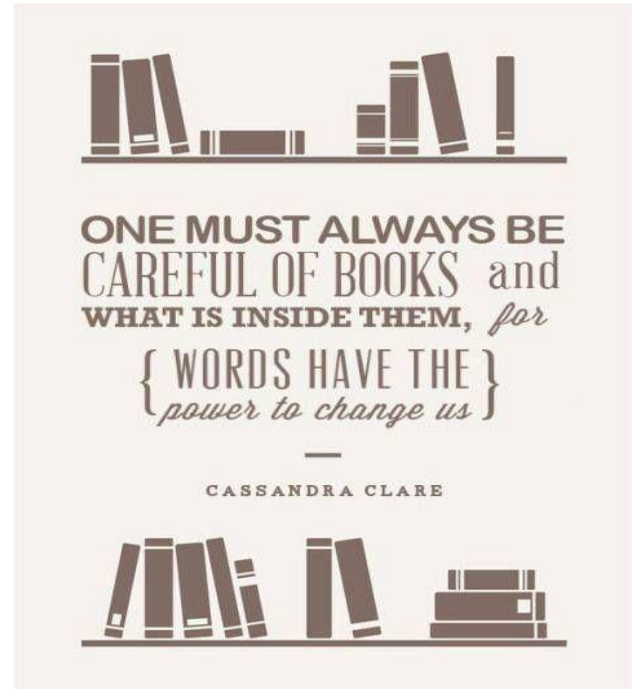
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ChromeBook (this year it will be your best friend)
- ✓ Pens and or pencils
- ✓ Copy of the current piece of literature to study
- ✓ Suggested: writing notebook
- ✓ Suggested: outside reading book

GRADING:

All assignments are given a point score and fall under the following categories:

- **Formative Practice Assignments** (general assignments, book annotations, class discussions, writing activities, quizzes, notes, independent reading, journals, practice, engagement, on task, etc.)
- **Writing**
- **Tests and Quizzes** (tests, final papers, midterms, etc.)



POTENTIAL TEXTS:

Just Mercy YA, The Rent Collector, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, House on Mango Street, Speak, Things Fall Apart, The Alchemist, student choices for literature circles, Shakespeare, as well as selected short stories from our literature anthology, and poetry.

***Students are encouraged to have an outside reading book** of their choosing throughout the school year.

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

- Reading notes and analyses
- Writing responses and journals
- Essays
- Participation and effort
- General assignments
- Attendance



CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

To do well in this course:

1. **ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION! It matters! Your presence matters!** Even if we are online, or hybrid, or in class. We will have to be flexible and give each other grace, but having your interaction whether it is in person or online makes a difference. Sometimes it will be hard. Sometimes it will feel disconnected, but let's all try to work hard, get to know each other, and learn!

Work

There will be online access to assignments and a daily agenda students can check when not at school. CHECK CANVAS! Your daily agenda with assignments will be posted daily.

Late Work & Absent Work – Come prepared

It is the student's responsibility to make-up what they missed. If the absence is excused, the student has the same number of school days as the number of absences to make up the work. All late work will be docked depending on the assignment. If any concerns arise concerning this policy, please speak with me *beforehand* and we can discuss an alternative.

2. **TREAT OTHERS RESPECTFULLY:**

Our class expectation is to be respectful, kind, and inclusive to everyone.

3. **DO YOUR OWN BEST WORK**

Cheating and Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. Any student who participates in cheating will receive a zero on that assignment and a U in citizenship. Cheating is also using peers' answers. Six words in a row from any source is plagiarism! *Any student who participates in cheating a second time in the same class will receive an "F" for that term.*

4. **CELL PHONE POLICY**

Cell phones are to be stored AWAY (off body, not on desks). There will be times we use phones in class for education, but you will be invited to take them out. Phones will be taken for the day if on a desk or on a body (lab, pocket, etc.) at inappropriate times. Headphones and earbuds are not allowed while direct instruction is occurring, but may be used depending on the situation or activity. If technology is misused, cell phones and other electronic devices that are used during class will be confiscated and given to an administrator.

CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA:

Your citizenship grade may be determined by your behavior in class, and tardiness. Again, this year is very different and we will all be working together to make sure we are as fair and effective as possible.

If there is a perceived error, any grade change must be completed within the following quarter or by June 30 for the fourth quarter.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act: *Ongoing critical evaluation by peers which may include the exchanging of student work, will be used to enhance the educational process. Ultimately the final assessment is the job of the teacher. Student privacy will be respected when providing class grades and other confidential information.*