English 12 Syllabus

Research, Writing, Literature, and Speaking

Mr. Barrows

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**Course Description**

This is a year-long course that will prepare students for freshman level college writing and public speaking and also provide the opportunity to study a variety of written works and films with emphasis placed on the novel, the short story, and the non-fiction essay. Students will also review the foundations of grammar, style, and usage and learn how to employ appropriate writing strategies to help take charge of their writing and produce quality work. During the first semester, special emphasis will be placed on public speaking skills and the development of a research project in the student’s area of interest. During the second semester, students will have the opportunity, in both discussion and writing, to analyze theme, character, and symbol as well as to reflect on how culture is portrayed through film and literature. Emphasis will be placed on the creation of literary analysis essays.

**Texts**

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Various handouts of short stories and poems for a Ray Bradbury author study

“Letter from Birmingham Jail” – an essay by Martin Luther King Jr.

“The Things They Carried” - Tim O’ Brien

“Modern Times” - a film by Charlie Chaplin

“The Grapes of Wrath” - the film version

“Rebel without A Cause” - a film

“Psycho” - a film

“In the Heat of the Night” - a film

“Shawshank Redemption” – a film

**Objectives**

* Students will learn to effectively limit a research topic and develop a thesis.
* Students will learn to effectively evaluate and select sources.
* Students will learn to document sources using the MLA format.
* Students will learn how to avoid plagiarism.
* Students will demonstrate mastery of mechanics, usage, and grammar in writing.
* Students will construct well organized multi-paragraph essays using critical analysis and thesis development.
* Students will learn to effectively summarize and critique articles.
* Students will incorporate the steps of the writing process in their writing – prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, proofreading, and publishing.
* Students will learn and implement methods of speech preparation and delivery.
* Students will present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly and concisely.
* Students will make use of multimedia elements and visual displays of data to gain audience attention and enhance understanding.
* Students will improve critical reading, listening, viewing, and thinking skills.
* Students will interpret and analyze the development of theme, character, and symbolism in literature and film.

**Mr. Barrows reserves the right to alter the assignments in this syllabus in order to meet the needs of the students and to meet time constraints.**

**Major Assignments (First Marking Period)**

Weekly Participation Points (9 total at 20 points each) = 180 points

“The Things They Carried” Letter Writing = 100 points

Elements of Public Speaking Quiz = 88 points

Manuscript Speech = 50 points

Extemporaneous “Shoebox” Speech = 50 points

 One or Two Impromptu Speeches (20 points each) = 20-40 points

One or Two Memorization Speeches (30 points each) = 30-60 points

Persuasive Speech = 200 points

Informative Speech = 200 points (PowerPoint)

**Major Assignments (Second Marking Period)**

Weekly Participation Points (9 total at 20 points each) = 180 points

Three or Four Summary Paragraphs (20 points each) = 60-80 points

Reflective response/summary of an article (2-3 typed pages) = 100 points

Annotated Bibliography in précis form (minimum of 10 sources) = 100 points

Research Proposal = 100 points

Long Report (6-10 typed pages) = 400 points

Long Report PowerPoint Presentation = 200 points

**Major Assignments (Third Marking Period)**

A weekly homework/class work grade (9 total at 20 points each) = 180 points

“Letter from Birmingham Jail” Quiz = 100 points

Ray Bradbury Short Story Analysis Essay (3-5 typed pages) = 200 points

Advertisement (ethos, pathos, logos) creation = 100 points

**Major Assignments (Fourth Marking Period)**

A weekly homework/class work grade (6 total at 20 points. each) = 120 points

*Fahrenheit 451* Literary Response Journals (3 total at 50 points each) = 150 points

“You be the Book” Presentation = 200 points

Film Response Journals = (4 total at 50 points each) = 200 points

**A final exam will be given at the end of each semester that will count for 20% of the final grade.**

**Senior Exam Exemption**

During the second semester, any senior who has nine or fewer absences, zero detentions or suspensions, and an 80% minimum score in the class will be exempt from taking the final exam.

**Mr. Barrows’ Expectations and Guidelines**

**All students are expected to:**

* Bring all books, materials, homework, etc. to class.
* Be in assigned seats and ready to work when the bell rings.
* Refrain from eating food or drinking pop or juice in class. Bottled water is allowed.
* Speak in a respectful tone, be respectful listeners, and follow directions.
* Follow the school dress code.
* Keep cell phones and all electronic devices turned off and put away during class unless I specifically give students permission to use phones during class. Cell phones and other electronic devices that are used without permission will be confiscated and turned in to the office.

**Hall Passes**

I’m a firm believer that students should come to class prepared and remain in the classroom during class time. If a student must leave class to retrieve forgotten homework, books, pencils, etc., a tardy will be assessed. Bathroom passes will be provided at the teacher discretion.

**Late Assignments**

All assignments are due on the due date at the beginning of the hour. Any assignment not turned in at the time I collect it will be considered late. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

**Missed Assignments Due to Absence**

If you are absent, make sure you get the work you missed. The work must be completed two class days from the day you return to class or it will not be accepted. **If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, then that assignment should be turned in on the day you return to class.**

**A Note on Paper Assignments**

Each assigned paper will require the completion of two or three drafts (including the final draft) that show proof of revision and display an effort to improve the writing. Drafts will be collected throughout the writing process and must also be turned in with the final paper. **Final papers will not be graded unless all drafts are complete and turned in. In addition, each final draft must be submitted electronically to turnitin.com by the due date. There will be a ten percent grade reduction for papers that are submitted late to turnitin.com.**

**\* Please note that a travel/flash drive or using Googledocs will be very helpful during this course as much of the writing will be done both in and out of school.**

**A Note on Plagiarism**

Any paper that shows evidence of intentional plagiarism will receive a zero and could result in a failing grade for the course.

**I have read and understood the syllabus and expectations and guidelines for Mr. Barrows’ English 12 classroom. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mr. Barrows at 989-635-7425(extension 44807) or at sbarrows@marletteschools.org**

**Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**