

Syllabus for ERWC Senior English 2020-2021

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Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 PM Mon, Thurs, Fri

If it is important to you, you will find a way. If it's not, you'll find an excuse.

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Special Considerations for Distance Learning during Covid 19

For security purposes, every student will be required to display an i.d.-style headshot photograph on their black screen at all times. Icons, cartoon figures, or pictures of celebrities are not acceptable. Students should turn on their video as soon as they enter class until roll has been taken.


To promote a healthy and nurturing social and emotional class environment during distance learning, students are strongly encouraged to use their video every day in class and in breakout sessions. This will be supported by a superior daily participation grade. Students who do not have a camera, or have weak connectivity, can earn a superior participation grade by joining actively in class discussions and chats, volunteering to answer questions, using icons (thumbs up, hands clapping, etc.) to respond whenever the teacher asks, and by taking a leadership role as a class officer or group leader.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to give you higher skills and knowledge for any career path you choose, whether you go directly into the workforce after high school or attend college or trade school. We will explore many types of nonfiction articles, as well as films, novels, plays, poems, and short stories. You will learn to make personal connections to texts, films, and songs, and to appreciate their tone, style, and purpose.

You will have a chance to strengthen your own unique voice in writing and speaking; to think deeply and evaluate truth in things you read online and in print; and master research skills that will benefit you in everyday life. You will also develop marketable workplace skills for keeping organized and collaborating with a team.

Texts and Explorations



The main texts are non-fiction articles from the California Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC). Other texts are in the form of novels, such as *Into the Wild*, and playscripts such as Luis Valdez's *Zoot Suit*. You will improve your skills for staking a persuasive claim, supporting it with facts, and understanding the opposing point of view.

Stay Well-Organized: Bring the following materials to Zoom class EVERY day:

- ✓ A Google Drive folder for **2020-2021 English class only**.
- ✓ Your Chromebook or other connection device
- ✓ A silent reading book for Book Circle - we may have reading time on any day of the week
- ✓ Small sized post-it notes (or buy bigger ones and cut them into squares or strips)
- ✓ Loose-leaf, college-ruled notebook paper (have at least ten sheets every day)

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- ✓ 4 highlighters of different colors
- ✓ Black or blue pens
- ✓ Pencil with eraser
- ✓ A small personal stapler is strongly recommended.
- You must have a Google account and access to a computer, since all of our course work will use Google Classroom. If you do not have internet at home, you and your parents can arrange with the district to get a free hotspot for your home.

Course Requirements

PSUSD policies dictate that a student must pass each semester class with a minimum of 60% (D-) in order to receive credit for that class. Every student must complete eight semesters of English in order to graduate from high school.

Tardy Policy Make every effort to arrive in class on time. Tardies will not be recorded during this period of distance learning, but students who are late may hurt their grade by missing exams, graded activities, or important instruction.

Make-up Work

Due to our 50% floor on grades of fail, there is no extra credit work available. If you are absent for any reason, make-up work is your responsibility and not the teacher's. Students who are absent can do the following: check the "Stream" agenda and the "Classwork" page on Google Classroom, or communicate with classmates through social media. Most of the work can be accomplished "asynchronously". If you are still struggling to understand directions for an assignment, email me or make arrangement to visit me during office hours. I cannot discuss grades or assignments during class time. See the *RMHS English Department Grading Policy* for further details.

English Department Grading Policy

Class Expectations - These are Real-World Job Skills

- Be in the Zoom meeting and ready to learn before the start of class.
- It is strongly recommended that you avoid using a black screen during synchronous instruction and in breakout rooms. It is understood that some students may have internet problems or personal reasons for not using their video. However, please realize that if I cannot see you it makes it harder for me to know if you need extra help, to slow down for you or accelerate instruction.
- For security, every student who uses a black screen must provide a picture of him or herself posted on their screen and display both first and last names. Game logos, pictures of celebrities, or nicknames are not acceptable.
- Have necessary materials every day.
- Be kind, polite, and respectful to everyone.

Choices and Consequences

Meet the class expectations outlined above. If a student chooses not to meet the expectations, the following consequences will occur:

1. Verbal warning and redirection

2. Temporary move to waiting room and Synergy record of incident
3. Student-teacher conference
4. Parent communication.
5. Discipline referral to administration

Certain behaviors may warrant an immediate referral or removal from a Zoom meeting. Make good choices and avoid unpleasant consequences. Remember, a happy and relaxed teacher means a more fun and interesting class.

Honor Code

Academic honesty is the cornerstone of your educational success. While there are times when group or partner work is called for, much of the work completed for a grade is individual. The grade is to assess what the student knows, not what someone else knows.


My trust in you is one of your most valuable assets in this class. Once gone, it will not be simple or easy to regain.

Grades

I do not discuss grades during or between classes. See me during office hours or communicate via email. Keep in mind that student work, including participation, is evaluated on the quality and accuracy of each product.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit available. I will do my best to coach you toward smart choices every day so that you keep up with the curriculum. Then you won't need extra credit.



You will not be able to rescue your English grade in the last two weeks of a grading period by negotiating large amounts of extra credit or make-up work. If you risk falling short of the eligibility requirements for school activities, clubs, or sports, be prepared to "own" the uncomfortable results.

I recognize this is a very stressful time for many students and their families. In my personal experience it is never easy being a teenager in the first place; now we all have many additional challenges to contend with. This year I am putting greater emphasis than ever before on **social and emotional learning**. I will make every effort to help you and your classmates create a safe, productive, and friendly place to be. The tone we set for each other will help you get through to the end of our national crisis - and believe me, many great things await you in your future! As Winston Churchill said, "If you're going through Hell... keep going." I'll be here to help you keep going.

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