



Novels

Period 6

Ms. Rebecca Lahey

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills as we analyze and discuss literature. Students will read and analyze various

types of novels: contemporary, graphic, historical fiction, young adult and classic. Students will learn how to ask relevant questions with depth, as they occasionally lead class discussions.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

It is expected that each student comes to class prepared for that day's lesson and is engaged to learn, while being respectful of his/her teacher and classmates.

Respect

It is important that everyone respects themselves, their peers and their teacher. We all have opinions to contribute. Support each other and listen while others are talking. Appreciate the different perspectives that everyone can bring to discussions. Always be kind and considerate to others.

Participate

A good portion of the English curriculum requires discussion. Therefore, everyone must participate and give valid input during class activities. Everyone is not going to have the same opinion, and that is okay. It is important to have different opinions, and we must appreciate and learn from all sorts of perspectives.

Try Your Best

Everyone makes mistakes. This is why revising and editing are part of the English curriculum. However, the most important thing is to try your best and learn from your past mistakes. We will grow as readers and writers throughout the year, but in order to do that we must put in our best effort.

Questions

Questions are always encouraged during class. Do not be afraid to ask. Your classmates may have the same questions that you do. It is important that I address your concerns in order for us all to learn. However, keep your questions relevant to the situation to respect your classmates' and your teacher's time.

Food/Drinks/Bathrooms

Hydration is very important! You may bring water into the classroom, but not any other drink. Because of the school's Peanut-Aware Policy, students should not bring food into the classroom. If you have to use the bathroom during class, just ask.

Technology

Technology, including school-issued laptops and personal devices should only be used for class specific learning. There is a 3-Strike-Policy that will be applied, if a student is seen using a device inappropriately:

1. Warning from a teacher.
2. Device will sit on Ms. Lahey's desk for the rest of the period.
3. 0/9 Block will be issued.

Exception: Students are allowed to listen to music on devices during work/reading time, as long as it does not distract from class work. However, please make sure the music is at a reasonable volume. This is a privilege. If it is abused, I will rescind the exception.

Late Work

Every day that an assignment is late, 1% of the grade will be dropped from the original worth of the assignment. It is important that you complete your work on-time. In the future, your teachers and bosses may not accept work that is turned in late. Get into the habit of turning assignments in on-time right now!

Retake Policy:

Students are allowed to retake or revise Final Writing/Presentation Assignments/Test **one time**, if they are unhappy with their grade. However, the worth of the score can only reach 90%.

Plagiarism and Cheating

You would be upset if someone stole your ideas and used them as their own, so do not do it to someone else. Plagiarism and cheating is completely unacceptable. If you do, you will have a mandatory meeting with myself and your parents about your actions. Afterwards, you are required to redo and hand-write the assignment for partial grade. **JUST DON'T DO IT.**



Units

Unit 1: Graphic Novel

- Persepolis - Marjane Satrapi
 - This graphic memoir highlights the Iran revolution from a young girl's perspective. It is a very quick read, because it is written like a comic book, although it has darker ideas. We will discuss the theme of childhood with different literary devices.

Unit 2: Historical Fiction

- Kindred - Octavia Butler
 - This novel is a bit of a hybrid genre, because it includes time-travel which can be considered a science fiction element. The novel is told from the perspective of a modern-day black woman who unwillingly travels back to before the Civil War and is forced to live as a slave.

Unit 3: Young Adult

- Independent Choice
 - Students will choose their own young adult novel to read and reflect on independently.
 - Students will present their novel to the rest of the class with their good/bad review.

Unit 4: Contemporary Fiction

- The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini
 - This beautifully written novel from an Afghan-American writer is about a man filled with guilt from mistakes that he has made as a boy. The main character grows up in Afghanistan before the revolution and then in the midst of war, him and his father immigrate to America.
 - We will closely analyze the themes of friendship, family and guilt closely, along with nationality and tradition.
 - It is a novel that is not easily forgotten and many people have found emotional connections to it.

Unit 5: Classic Fiction/Science Fiction

- Frankenstein - Mary Shelley
 - This novel is the most challenging of all the novels we will read, mainly for its advanced language. It is the haunting classic story of a mad scientist who tried to create life from death and ends up creating a monster.
 - We will look closely at the author's dramatic life and compare the events of the novel to her background.
 - We will compare and contrast the narrator and themes of Frankenstein and the Kite Runner for the final paper.