English Comp. Syllabus

Mr. Winship - jwinship@aznsa.com - nsaawinship@gmail.com (for Google Docs submissions)

Room 2B - 7th Hour: 2:20-3:15

Office Hours: Daily from 12:50-2:15, at Lunch of After School by Appointment

Website: nsaawinship.weebly.com

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## Course Introduction:

In NSAA English Literature, students will experience a wide range of literary and critical works in genres found in English Language Art courses including short stories, novels, literary criticism, biographies, memoirs, essays, poetry, drama as well as non-fiction narratives. Students also will be trained in the writing skills they need to succeed in high school and college. The ultimate goals of this class are to foster students’ analytical and critical thinking skills that will enhance independent and informed thought; encourage appreciation for literature; and allow for articulate self-expression.

## Course Objectives

* Students will demonstrate understanding and analysis of complex texts.
* Students will write academic essays at or approaching college level readiness.
* Students will engage collaboratively in Socratic Seminars and other class discussions as well as in project based learning activities.
* Students will demonstrate proper grammar conventions in writing.
* Students will build vocabulary for comprehension as well as integrate new words into written expression.

## Course Content

There will be a project each quarter. Projects will be collaborative, integrate visual or performing arts, and conclude in a class presentation.

There will be a book report due the last week of each quarter. Students will receive the format for the book report at the beginning of each quarter.

Words of the Week (WOW) – Students will be expected to practice weekly vocabulary from the WOW lists (attached) as well as additional vocabulary based upon the reading material presented in class. Vocabulary assessments will be quarterly, but students will regularly practice using the vocabulary in class, especially in writing.

## Materials

* One 1 to 1 ½” three ring binder
* One college ruled composition book for daily journal writing
* A two pocket folder without tabs
* 5 x 7 Lined Note Cards – 1 package of 100
* Blue or black pens, one red or green pen, pencils and highlighters
* Sticky Note tabs (paper)

## Daily Classwork

Students are required to maintain an exclusive binder for this class. Students are expected to keep all notes, homework, in-class assignments, handouts, quizzes and exams organized throughout the semester. In addition to the points earned on the assignments mentioned, the teacher will conduct journal and binder checks. Journals will be evaluated on completeness, effort, and organization. Bring your binder, journal composition book, writing utensils and highlighters, and paper to class every day.

## Homework

Students will have reading assignments nearly every day. Daily homework will consist of reading, annotating, and journal writing, in addition to preparing for reading quizzes and tests. Essays and project presentations may also require work to be completed at home. Late assignments will not be accepted – including major essays and presentations, except for excused absences or if the student requests an extension before the due date. Mr. Winship will not make a distinction between homework and classwork in terms of grading. All work that is assigned, even if it is completed entirely in class, will be considered homework. Mr. Winship will give clear due dates for assignments, and any in class work not completed will be considered homework and may be subject to late penalties. Mr. Winship understands that all students work at different paces, but it will be necessary to practice good time-management skills to succeed in this class.

## Attendance and Absences

Prompt daily attendance is expected. All students must be seated in the classroom and prepared to learn when the class begins! Each tardy or unprepared class will cost you academic points and negatively influence your grade. **If a student is absent for too many periods of class, they may be subject to significant grade reductions or removal from class.** Additionally, if a student is aware of up-coming absences, it is their responsibility to inform me before the absences and arrange make-up or alternative work. If students are aware of upcoming absences they should email Mr. Winship at **jwinship@aznsa.com**. A friend in class is helpful to collect materials and information if you are absent. Lecture notes may be provided upon request. Do your best not be absent, excused or otherwise. The pace of this course means that missing class can put you behind very quickly. You are required to make up missed assignments or notes regardless of the reason class was missed. Extended absences will be treated on a case-by-case basis.

**Absences will only be considered excused if Mr. Winship has been directly contacted by students or their guardians. If you have an excused absence, you must contact both the front desk and Mr. Winship. Emails work best for this. If you contact the front desk, but not Mr. Winship, your absence will be considered unexcused.**

It is your responsibility to find out what you missed while you were absent, and you must do this outside of regular class hours. This information will be available to you in Mr. Winship’s room and at his website. He will not stop class to tell you what you missed. Get notes you missed from another person or the website, ask someone if an assignment was missed, then check the assignment board to retrieve your work. If your absence is excused, you will not lose participation points. If your absence is unexcused, then you will lose all daily professionalism points and missing work will be regarded as late. Missed work must be completed in a timely manner after your return to school. You have 1 class period for every day you were excused absent to complete missing assignments, any time longer and work will be regarded as late.

**If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you must make arrangements to complete the test on your own time, within a week of the test date. Failure to do so will result in a zero for that test or quiz.**

**Any student who accumulates three or more tardies or unexcused absences in the same class in one month will be required to recover instructional minutes on the last Saturday of each month. Saturday attendance will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Failure to attend Saturday recovery hours may result in a schedule change.**

## Due Dates

All assignments must be completed on the scheduled due date. Work can often be completed by the end of class, but occasionally you will have a specific homework assignment or simply were unable to complete an assignment in class. Work will always be due the class meeting following it being assigned unless otherwise noted. Assignments are turned in at the beginning of the class period and it is your responsibility to turn in your work.

## Topical Presentations and Essays

Essays and Topical Presentations are used to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skill and creativity in class. The student’s ability to develop, organize and deliver ideas is a critical component of a student’s grade. Students are expected to use MLA format, in-text citations, and a formal reference page on all academic papers. Students should go to https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ for help with MLA citations. NSAA uses a writing rubric based upon Arizona College and Career Ready Standards that is posted on the webpage and will be given to students with their first formal writing assignment. A copy of the writing rubric is attached to this syllabus.

## Unit Exams and Quizzes

Unit exams will usually be in essay or narrative format. Some of these will be completed in class and some at home. Students who miss an exam due to an excused absence must take the exam on the class day after they return. (If the student is absent on Tuesday and returns on Wednesday, he or she must take the test on Thursday.) Students will lose one letter grade every day thereafter. If a student has an unexcused absence, he/she will not have an opportunity to make up the missed exam and will receive a “0”. It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements to take the exam during the teacher’s office hours.

## Semester Exams

A cumulative exam will be given at the end of the first semester in December and at the end of the second semester in May. This exam will count as twenty percent of the semester grade.

## Course Policies

### Classroom Expectations

Education is a collaborative endeavor, and it is in the spirit of collaboration that this class is based. It is therefore expected that students will honor this spirit by facilitating the best possible learning environment for themselves and for their peers. Honesty, commitment, integrity, trust, and respect are expected from everyone participating in this course.

### General Policy

Course policies are the rules and guidelines that our class follow, in addition to those established by the New School for the Arts and Academics (All NSAA rules and expectations are enforced in Mr. Winship’s classroom). These policies are consistently enforced throughout the school year and distributed in the student handbook at the beginning of each year. Each student is expected to know, understand and follow these policies. If you feel class or school policies need clarification speak with Mr. Winship or an administrator directly.

### Classroom Behavior

Students are members of a community of learners. For communities to thrive, certain concepts and rules must be embraced. In our community, the following general behavior is expected of all students:

 Respect: All students will respect themselves, their community members, and the learning environment.

 Readiness: All students must attend class every day and ready to actively participate in daily activities.

 Responsibility: All students must accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Active participation and preparedness is expected at all times. No distracting items are allowed in the classroom (e.g. headphones, food, electronics). Students will use appropriate language in the classroom; swearing or other offensive language is not permitted in the classroom.

Students are responsible for their academic progress and communication with Mr. Winship about issues or other struggles.

**Failure to adhere to these policies will result in the loss of participation points and will have a negative impact on your grade.**

### Electronic Devices

Cell phone and usage of any other electronic equipment is not allowed without the direction and consent of the teacher. No photos, video, recordings may be taken unless written approval by the teacher. Students will be allowed to listen to music during independent work time, however, if their music is loud enough that others can hear it they will be asked to stop. Headphones should not be used outside of this work time. You will not need a tablet or laptop for this class, these should remain in your bag unless permission is given by Mr. Winship. Students who are having trouble managing their electronic devices, for whatever reason, will lose their device for the rest of class.

If your phone rings in class, Mr. Winship will answer it for you.

### Bathroom Use and Leaving the Classroom

Students will be given 4 hall passes per quarter. They may use the hall pass to get out of instructional time for a maximum of 10 minutes. What they do on their hall pass is up to them: using the restroom, phone calls, texting, walking around, talking to another teacher during office hours, getting something from the front desk, seeing an administrator, having an attitude adjustment, there are many options. However, to leave class students must use a pass. Students will not receive additional passes if lost, so they should keep them in a safe place.

Students should be in the habit of going to the bathroom between classes since they will not be able to leave without one of their passes. Keep in mind that this does not excuse them being tardy. Students may be asked to wait to exercise their use of a pass while Mr. Winship is giving vital instructions for lecture, assignments, and exams.

Unused hall passes may be turned in the day of the semester final exam for extra credit. Note: Students who are suspected of unethical behavior (such as photocopying the passes) will not be given extra credit points, and may be subject to loss of professionalism points.

### Water Policy

For the first two weeks of school, Mr. Winship will stock cups in his classroom. During this period, students my use these cups to drink water. However, when these cups run out, Mr. Winship will not restock them. Each quarter students will be issued 6 cup passes; these passes will function in the same manner as bathroom passes. Students may use the pass to receive a cup that they may use for the period.

Students may not use cups brought from other classrooms. However, students with water bottles my refill them as long as it is not distracting.

Unused passes may be turned in the day of the semester final exam for extra credit. Note: Students who are suspected of unethical behavior (such as photocopying the passes) will not be given extra credit points, and may be subject to loss of professionalism points.

Additionally, students who turn in all of their passes may be granted additional extra credit or similar academic reward.

### Other Policies

Students may sit where they like in class, however, if this privilege is being abused, or becomes a distraction, Mr. Winship reserves the right to assign a seating chart for the sake of a cohesive learning environment. Those with seating accommodations must see Mr. Winship independently outside of class. Medicine is dispensed at the front desk. Mr. Winship will not dispense medications. Students may use a pass to go up to the front and get them if needed.

### Honors Policy

All students earning a 95% or higher at the end of the semester will be awarded Honors credit for this course.

## Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating, copying and plagiarism are serious acts of academic dishonesty and are not tolerated. Parents or Guardians of students involved and the Executive Dean will be informed of such behavior. Students who cheat or plagiarize receive a zero for the assignment or exam. Students involved in copying of work receive a zero for the assignment or exam, including any student allowing the copying to take place. Students who plagiarize may also receive a failing grade for the quarter. If students or family members have questions about this, please talk to Mr. Winship.

Plagiarism is extremely serious, a fact students should already be aware of. In Middle and High School, plagiarism can result in lost points, or failing a class. But once students graduate, plagiarism can result in more severe consequences. In college, students can be dropped from classes, or in serious cases, be expelled. In the professional world, plagiarism could lead to job termination, loss of credentials, and legal trouble. It is better to produce little or nothing than it is to plagiarize.

## Grading Policy

### Grading Scales and Weights

The following scale will be used to assign your grade for each quarter and semester.

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: <60%

Each Quarter grade will consist of the following categories and percentages:

Professionalism (25%)- Daily points for respect, readiness, responsibility, and participation. This class will be primarily focused on in class discussion, and students are expected to participate early and often. Failure to participate will be detrimental to students’ ability to succeed in this class.

Classwork (25%)- Do Nows, Homework, Document Based Questions, Essays, and other in class assignments. Points of these assignments will vary.

Essays and Written Works (25%)-These are longer form writings that will occur either in class or as homework, but are considerably more valuable than daily classwork.

Tests and Quizzes (25%)- There will be at least one test given per quarter. Quizzes will vary in number based on Unit.

Each quarter grade counts as 40% of the semester grade and the final is 20% as per NSAA school policy.

Benchmark tests do not count towards or against your grade in the course but are required 3 times a year and are used internally at NSAA. Benchmarks will occur on August 14th &, on December, 15th & 18th and on May 17th & 18th. Test data is instrumental in being able to refine course work and effectively plan for the future.

## Nondiscrimination Policy

NSAA seeks to provide an academic and social environment that is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by law. NSAA seeks to promote a safe environment in which community members are free to express themselves without fear of recrimination.

## Students with Accommodations and/or Modifications

To ensure and support the intellectual and artistic richness in our education community, NSAA is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive learning environment by providing equal access to students with disabilities. Accommodations pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and modifications to support students who meet the requirements for Exceptional Student Services will be honored as directed by federal and state law.

## Amending the Syllabus

Mr. Winship may change this syllabus at any time. In the event of changes, students will receive notice and a copy of any changes.

# Social Contract

I acknowledge that I have read the English Comp. Syllabus for the NSAA 2017 Fall semester. I understand that the outlined policies will direct this course for the following school year. A signature below indicates that I will follow the course policies as outlined in the syllabus, the expectations outlined in the NSAA Student Handbook, and the Parent/Student/School Compact.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

------Parent/Guardian Section------

My student has the following devices which they take to school:

O Smartphone O Laptop or Notebook O iPad or Tablet O Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My student has a school approved accommodation plan (IEP/504):

O Yes O No

Anything you need/want me to know about you or your student to help me work best with them:

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Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**This contract is due on or before Friday, August 11th!**