English 112A Course Outline

Grade 11 Semester 1 (September 2011 – January 2012)

Mrs. Cabel

Welcome to English 112A! Please keep in mind the importance of your effort in this course, as it is a necessary credit for you to graduate. You will quickly notice that the expectations of you in grade eleven are higher than what you were used to in grades nine and ten. It is expected that over the past two years you have acquired the reading and writing skills necessary to work at a more independent level in grade eleven. Don’t worry, I’m still here to guide you, but you will find that I challenge you a lot more as well.

In our **reading** program, you will engage in independent and shared reading, and will respond to your reading through journals, discussions, essays, projects, mini-assignments, and sometimes quizzes and tests. You will be required to read independently during SSR, and it is expected that you will also read at home, especially with regards to the novel study. You will not complete projects on SSR books, rather you will conference with me and be asked to complete demand activities on your book, some of which might be presentation based. I have a classroom library, which you can use to sign out books, and of course, you can access the many resources that are available in our school library.

Our **writing** program will take the form of a writing workshop, which means that students may travel through the writing process at different speeds. Writing workshop will always begin with a quick write or a mini-lesson on grammar, writing techniques, the writing process, or issues concerning our current genre. You must have a **hard cover writers notebook**, which will be used for quick writes, journaling, prewriting, and drafting. You may continue to use this notebook in English 112B. Our primary genre focus this semester will be essay writing and persuasive writing, although you will have chances to respond to texts through narrative and descriptive writing.

You will also have the opportunity to brush up on your **speaking and listening** skills, which are an important part of the provincial curriculum. I realize that speaking in front of peers is an area of struggle for many teenagers, but it is expected that in grade eleven, students will be able to speak for a variety of purposes and audiences. There will not be a specific unit devoted to speaking and listening – these activities will be included within the regular units of study.

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**Unit 1- Short Stories**

In this unit, we will explore some of the most engaging short stories to ever be written. In grades nine and ten, the focuses of short story units were the short story elements and on understanding how we use the “big six” reading comprehension strategies. In grade eleven, the focus during this unit will be critical reading. It is expected that you have a strong understanding of the basics of plot, setting, character, etc., so we will delve further *behind* the lines of the text to develop enhanced comprehension. Instead of only asking “What is the conflict in this story?”, I will ask, “What does the author’s conflict in this story say about our society, about human relationships?” I will guide you through this process of “second draft reading”, exploring the deeper meaning of the text, and to recognize the importance of historical and cultural context to our reading of texts. Students will also be required to use evidence/quotations from the text in their responses.

**Unit 2- Novel Study – *Lord of the Flies***

Through this study, students will further enhance their critical literacy skills, while looking deeper into the use of allegory in fiction, author’s purpose, human nature, and historical context.

**Unit 3- The Personal Essay**

Before we begin writing personal essays, we will study what it means to be a writer of this genre. In other words, we will read to figure out what other authors are up to in their writing, and we will read to respond. These mentor texts will be central to our study of the genre. Using key ideas from the mentor texts, and your knowledge of the writing process and traits of writing, you will compose your own personal essays. This unit will help you to find your voice as an essay writer before moving on to the larger research essay unit in English 112B.

**Continuous Unit- Independent Novel Study**

* Students are required to read independent novels of choice this semester, which are suitable for their reading levels. Students will be required to complete minor tasks on their novels for marks.

\*These units of study may not be completed in order. Also, students will be responsible for consistent quick writes and reading response. Additional read alouds and mini-lessons will be given if I note particular areas of struggle.

The course will be marked as follows:

**Classroom Work (projects, assignments,**

**writing tasks, tests, quizzes, etc.) 70%**

**Exam 30%**

**Materials Needed:**

1 3 ring binder

1 Hard Covered Journal

Dictionary and Thesaurus

Pens and Pencils

**Please use my website to access homework, handouts, image galleries, and links related to the course. To get to the website, go to** [**http://mvhs.nbed.nb.ca**](http://mvhs.nbed.nb.ca)**, then to “Teacher Pages”, and then click on my name.**

**Good luck and have a great semester! ~Mrs.Cabel**