



SUBSIDIARY COURSE AGREEMENT AND SYLLABUS

Course: Grade 8 English Language Arts
Subject Teacher: Dr. Kris Rodenberg

Course Number: 1520 & 1520C
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DESCRIPTION OF SEMESTER COURSE

This is a full year course, based on the California English Language Arts Content Standards and the SDUSD Critical Concepts framework. Focus is on supporting students' development of skills and strategies for independent reading and writing of grade-level texts. The goal of instruction is to facilitate students' becoming strategic, critical readers and writers, listeners and speakers, who communicate effectively in various forms for a variety of purposes and audiences. Students in the advanced level course are expected to hone their skills in literary analysis through additional independent assignments.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF STUDY

Each month, students in this course must complete the following work:

1. Read text selections as described on monthly assignment sheets and complete each task listed. Assignments will generally include skills focused worksheets, end of reading questions, and activities in the text and/or supplemental materials. Tasks require that students demonstrate knowledge of reading material, practice specific strategies/skills, conduct literary analysis, and write by adhering to English conventions.
2. Select and read one novel of student's choice and write a book review that will be part of the Month 5 and 8 assignments.

RESOURCES

- Textbook: *Literature, Silver Edition* (Prentice Hall Publishers) & companion materials
- *Write Source 2000*
- Assorted novels
- Rodenberg website linked to Mt Everest Academy
- Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>
- Mt. Everest Academy multimedia laboratory

MONTHLY CONCEPT AND TECHNOLOGY FOCI

Month	Critical Concept(s)	Technology Focus
Month 1	Analyzing audience, purpose, and point of view Selected short stories (vary)	Digital Citizen Newsela Introduction Close Reading (FAST)
Month 2	Synthesizing research Background for Science Project Reading for information	Knowledge Constructor & Digital Citizen Research tools, MLA Citations, Newsela Common Sense Media (1)
Month 3	Exploring theme Novel: <i>Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>	Computational Thinker Interdisciplinary connections Common Sense Media (2)
Month 4	Analyzing and Generating claims, evidence, and reasoning Argument essays (vary)	Empowered Learner Unlocking the Genius (1) SBAC Interim – read for info
*Month 5	Understanding & Generating Informational Text Science Fair Project	Innovative Designer
Month 6	Analyzing narratives, language (diction and register) Generating narratives Novel Study: Text Choice	Digital Citizen Unlocking the Genius (2) Close Reading (FAST)
Month 7	Analyze text structure Novel Study: <i>To Kill a Mocking Bird</i>	Global Collaborator Newsela UtG Capstone Project (3)
Month 8	Main ideas, synthesizing research I-Search Project	Knowledge Constructor Independent Research
Month 9	Exploring theme, motif, perspective, and allusion Novel Study: <i>Whirligig</i>	SBAC Final Common Sense Media (3) Close Reading (FAST)
*Month 10	Capstone Task	Innovative Designer
* Students submit an independent reading book review with their Month 5 Assignments.		

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND METHODS

Academic credit for each month is based on submission of materials by due dates. Work submitted after due dates will not earn full credit. Grading is based on the quality, effort, accuracy, and thoroughness of the work submitted as determined by the course instructor. In keeping with the San Diego City Schools procedure #4705, the following grades are assigned:



“A”	= consistently superior work quality
“B”	= above average work quality
“C”	= satisfactory or average for grade level work quality
“D”	= below average quality or quantity of work
“F”	= failure, credit not granted
“I”	= incomplete course work. Six weeks allowed for make-up.
“NC”	= No Credit

SCHOOLWIDE LEARNER OUTCOMES

- Communicate effectively through reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- Think and solve problems independently and critically.
- Demonstrate the confidence, resilience, and self-esteem to succeed in life.
- Use resources, including technology, to locate needed information.
- Demonstrate good citizenship and personal integrity.

