COURSE SYLLABUS: WORLD LITERATURE

Logistics

Instructor: Kasey Swiers  
Email: kklinkhammer@mahnomen.k12.mn.us  
Location: Room 243

Course Overview

This class is designed to deepen your understanding of World Literature and broaden your knowledge of Language Arts. We will focus on building skills in reading, writing, and comprehension. We will work on building vocabulary, and grammar and mechanics. Together we will read some contemporary novels and have discussions. Using various technology programs and software, the students will have the opportunity to “show what they know”.

Units of Instruction

We are fortunate to have two excellent textbooks to work with throughout this school year. For the first semester, we use the World Literature textbook, which details literature around the world. During the second semester, we will be using the British Literature textbook. This text details British Literature, along with the historical context of each era. What an opportunity we have in front of us through the course of this school year!

In addition to the textbook, we will be completing two novel studies. The students will read William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, and they will be able to choose a novel for the unit, Taking Risks. The options are: *A Long Way Gone, Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors, The Book Thief, Persepolis*, and *Sold*.

Below is a tentative schedule of the material covered year long. Included in each part are lessons on grammar/style, literary analysis, speaking and listening, writing, vocabulary and spelling, and accuplacer preparation.

From World Literature textbook:

Contemporary World Literature and Culture

- Unit 1: Passport to Mexico
- Unit 2: Passport to Nigeria
- Unit 3: Passport to Greece
- Unit 4: Passport to France
- Unit 5: Passport to Russia
- Unit 6: Passport to India
- Unit 7: Passport to China
- Unit 8: Passport to Japan
From British Tradition textbook:

- Unit 1: Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
- Unit 2: Romantic Period
- Unit 3: Victorian Era
- Unit 4: Modern Era
- Unit 5: Postmodern Era
- Unit 6: Depression and World War II
- Unit 7: Postwar Era
- Unit 8: Early Contemporary Era
- Unit 9: Contemporary Era

Methodology

World Literature students will be instructed in a variety of methods, including, but not limited to:

- Lecture
- Class discussion
- Group work
- Individual work
- Reading of articles and news stories
- Use of the Internet as an informational source
- Use of surveys to gather and share information
- Individual presentations
- Group presentations

Every effort will be made to demonstrate the relevance of the material covered in this course. The topics have been chosen carefully to cover the challenges that may face students in their post-high school years.

Evaluation Criteria

Students will have a variety of methods to display master of the subject area and to show their effort and overall contributions to the class. The following are the criteria used to evaluate students:

- **Daily Work**
  - Cooperation in class with staff and peers
  - Involvement in discussions
  - Active role in all class activities
  - Being prepared for class
  - Adherence to all class policies as explained in the student contract

- **Graded class assignments**
  - Individual presentations
  - Group presentations
Mahnomen High School

- Homework
- Writing assignments
- Homework
- All other work designated as an assignment by the teacher

Materials

- Notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Chromebook (Grades 9-12)

Resources

- Articles (current event articles and informational articles)
- Various handouts
- Notes
- Various websites
- Video sources
- Textbooks
- Novels
CONTRACT: WORLD LITERATURE

Please review the course syllabus with your parent or guardian. Review the following notes below, and then sign the document. The contract is due one day after it is assigned.

- Students will show respect for everyone in the class. Students will address the class in discussions in ways that do not offend others based on race, religion, or sexual preference.
- **One person talks at a time.** When the teacher or a student is addressing the class, they deserve your attention, so please make every effort to respect this request.
- Students will be expected at times to work with a group. Sometimes students will be able to choose their group, other times groups will be assigned. Equal participation from all members of a group is essential to the success of the group.
- Students are expected to contribute to the atmosphere of the class in a positive manner. Calling out, making fun of others, being sarcastic or disruptive in any way will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to work on material for this course only.
- Students are expected to turn work in a timely manner. Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% per school day, absences notwithstanding.
- All work will be available in student mailboxes or in the extras tray. If you have trouble locating a missed assignment, it is your responsibility to ask me to help you so that you may complete missing work.

*We have read the World Literature Student Contract and Syllabus, and understand all the rules of this class.*

STUDENT’S NAME (PRINTED): ________________________________________________

STUDENT’S SIGNATURE: ____________________________________________________

PARENT’S NAME (PRINTED): ________________________________________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: _____________________________________________________

PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION (OPTIONAL): _______________________________

______________________________________________________________________