

History Through Literature Syllabus

Garden Valley High School

Ryan Wessels

2020-2021

Curriculum:

This class will be an exercise of gaining an understanding of history through historical fiction novels. These novels will be selected in a way that helps students experience other cultures and to help students realize different perspectives of history. Students will be expected to read, discuss, and review these novels in class.

Book List:

The Good Earth

Homegoing

Killer Angels

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Bartleby the Scrivener

Slaughterhouse 5

All the Light We Cannot See

We Should Never Meet

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

The Book Thief

Assessment Strategies:

Daily Bell Ringer - Formative

Daily Discussion - Formative

Weekly review essay or work sheet - Summative

Essays - Formative

Book Reviews - Summative

Textbooks:

We will be using an assortment of resources in class; several web series, slideshow lectures, and activities. All lectures and videos will be available through Google Classroom.

Course Needs:

Students are required to bring the following supplies to class every day:

- Notebook
- Pencil, pen, and highlighter
- Your attention

Absentee Policy:

When a student is absent, he/she will be able to find that day's lesson and homework on Google Classroom. It is also recommended that the student check in with the teacher to ask any questions about the missed work and make sure that there are no other missing assignments. Students have one day for every day that they were out plus one extra day to make up the work. However, students are expected to stay up to date on current assignments and activities during this makeup period. Missed tests and quizzes must be made up within three school days.

Distant Learning Policy:

If we as a school return to distant learning, or if students must quarantine at home for an extended period of time, there will be an expectation that they will attend class daily via Google Meets and Google Classroom. If a student is quarantining at home they will be expected to log into Google Classroom and join each class via Google Meet during the regularly scheduled class time. Each class will be live streaming their class and adding materials on Google Classroom to ensure that all students have access to the same opportunities as “in-class” students. Unless a doctor’s or parental note is provided stating that students are too sick to work, they will be counted absent if they do not log into the Google Meet. While in the Meet, students must have their camera on and be visible to be counted for attendance. If students are disruptive during the Meet, they will be asked to leave, and miss out on the work for that day. In the case that students are too sick to attend a Google Meet, they will have to watch a recording of each Meet that was missed, and will be expected to keep up with assigned work with flexible due dates.

Extra Help:

If additional help is needed, students may stay after school by appointment, and will need to arrange for their own transportation home.

Grading Policy:

Grading in US History will be calculated off of total points. Late work will be allowed up until the end of each unit. If work is not turned in at the initial due date it will receive a 10% deduction. After one week, students will only be eligible for half credit.

Grading System

The following letters are used for course grades:

- A - Extraordinary - 90 - 100%
- B - Above Average - 80 - 89%
- C - At Grade Level - 70 - 79%
- D - Passing - 60 - 69%
- F - Failing - Below 60%
- P - Pass - Satisfactory

Retake Policy:

If a student has concerns about their grade, they should discuss with the teacher the reason(s) behind their current average and the necessary steps to take. At teacher discretion, tests (not quizzes) may be redone to indicate improved mastery of the subject matter. Only the higher grade will be recorded. Note* It’s much easier to do well on a test or quiz the first time around because in addition to preparing for a retake, you still need to keep up and do the current work in all of your other classes!

Extra Credit Policy:

There will be very limited opportunities for extra credit in this class. Opportunities for extra-credit will only be available at the direction of the teacher, and will generally include a book or journal review.

Covid-19 Sick Leave:

If students are to miss school because of Covid-19 they will still be able and be expected to follow along with school work, unless they have a doctors note. During this time class will live streamed via Google Meet, and students will be expected to log in and participate with their class in real time. Their homework will be found on the Google Classroom per usual.

Classroom Rules and Discipline Policy:

1. Be respectful to other students
2. Be respectful to the teacher
3. Be respectful to your future self
4. Be on time and come prepared
5. Participate
6. Listen
7. Follow procedures
8. No cellphones

Students and parents should refer to the Garden Valley Student Handbook for details regarding, but not limited to cell phone use, academic honesty, disruptive behavior and truancy, dress code, vehicles at school, public displays of affection, absences, and bullying.

Google Classroom:

Students and parents are encouraged to visit the Google Classroom regularly for announcements, daily homework assignments, calendar of events, helpful documents, and other important information. Our Google Classroom will be set up by unit/novel. A description of each novel will be available at the top of these sections that will include major objectives and projects that students are working on for the unit. Each week within each unit will be distinctly separated. All assigned work will be found in these sections.

Garden Valley is a 1:1 computing school, so every student will receive a Google Chromebook for their use. This device needs to be treated with care and should be fully charged before being brought to school.

In addition to the class website, I also like to contact parents on a regular basis about student progress and classroom participation. Please fill out the information neatly on the next page so that I may contact you as easily as possible. If parents would like access to their child's Google Classroom feel free to contact me and I will be able to grant you access.

Please keep this syllabus for future reference and return the last page to class.

Contact Information:

Ryan Wessels

Garden Valley High School
(208) 462-3756 (School's #)
(208) 827-6047 (My cell #)
rwessels@gvgsd.net

*E-mail is the easiest way to reach me during school hours. I am also fine with texts during this time.

Student Name

Reachable phone #1

Parent/Guardian Name

Reachable phone #2

Reachable phone #1

Email address

**Please put a star next to the best way(s) to reach a parent/guardian during the school day.*

Reachable phone #2

Email address

Are you able to log-on to the Internet?

YES NO

Parent/Guardian Name

Is there anything that would be helpful for me to know?

I have read this syllabus with my son/daughter and we have discussed and understand all of the policies and procedures.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

