

Syllabus

Senior Essay
Twelfth Grade Humanities: English
Ms. Blanchard
bec.blanchard@portlandwaldorf.org
541.600.4402

Course Description:

This is an English track class with an emphasis on research and writing skills. You will be researching and writing the rough draft of your Senior Research Essay for this class. Much of this course will be workshopping writing in class, so student attendance and participation will be critical.

Required Texts:

Only what you may require from the library.

Materials:

Each day, you will be expected to bring to class: your day-planner, a blue or black pen, pencil, a notebook and/or loose leaf paper, and a folder or binder in which to keep handouts.

Learning Goals:

- 1.) Develop clear and meaningful research topic, questions, and research goals
- 2.) Develop and hone research skills: source evaluation, bibliography creation, and organization of notes
- 3.) Clear thesis creation
- 4.) Develop and hone organizational structure in writing
- 5.) Develop and hone writing and editing skills through the process of drafts and revisions
- 6.) Develop and express original ideas based on research, and communicate them effectively in writing

Key Assignments and Grading:

- 1.) Daily, active participation in all class activities: keeping up on research, meaningful contributions to class discussions, and using class time effectively: 25% of your grade
- 3.) Annotated bibliography and Cornell-style notes: 25% of your grade
- 2.) Thesis proposal, revisions, and essay outline: 25% of your grade
- 4.) Rough draft of Senior Research Essay: 25% of your grade

Student Requirements:

Attendance

Students will be required to attend all classes on-time and adhere to all school absent/tardy policies. Absences will only be excused if pre-arranged, or the school has been notified of illness or emergency by the student's parent or guardian. ***Students are responsible for obtaining any missed work or assignments.*** (Please see Student Handbook for a full explanation of all attendance policies).

Participation

As this course is one of workshopping writing, active participation and keeping up on daily assignments will be critical, not only to the students' grades, but to the quality of their class participation, and to the richness of their experience. Students will be required to keep one binder with loose-leaf paper for taking in-class notes, and keeping neat record of their writings. This notebook may be turned in periodically in order to assess student progress, and will contribute to students' overall participation grade. Any readings will be provided by the teacher. Students are expected to bring **all previous and current readings** with them to class each day along with their binder, day planner, and proper writing utensils (pencil or blue or black pen).

Student Behavioral Expectations

In addition to being punctual, it is expected for all students to be considerate and respectful of all members in this class. This is a participation-heavy course, and as such, it is asked that all students listen as actively as they speak. If you, the student, tackle this material, and the ideas therein with will and honesty, you will have things to say; you will also have things to discover both from the texts and one another.

Academic Policies:

Deadlines

All work is due on the assigned day. In the case of absence, minor assignments may be handed in the following class day **if** the absence is an **excused** absence. Major assignments due on the last day of a course are **not accepted late**. It is the student's responsibility to arrange to get work, such as a Main Lesson Book or final paper, turned in on time even if they are ill.

Late Assignments (UPDATED)

Late assignments that are not pre-arranged or from an excused absence are receive an automatic 50% reduction in total credit. This will scale from year to year: 75% reduction in tenth grade and 100% reduction for eleventh and twelfth grades. (In other words, 50% possible credit in ninth, 25% possible credit in tenth, and zero % possible credit in eleventh and twelfth grades without proper extensions or excused absence.)

Extensions

I **love** granting extensions as it shows proactive responsibility for one's academic progress, but a student **must** contact me **before** the due date in order to make the proper arrangements. For minor assignments, this is at least one class day before the deadline. For **major assignments**, students must request extensions in writing by using the **Request for Extension Form**, which is available in the High School Office or on the website:

<https://portlandwaldorfhs.wordpress.com/forms> This form must be signed by the teacher, the advisor, and the Student Assistant Coordinator prior to submission. Completed forms must be submitted to the high school office no later than **48 hours in advance of the deadline**. (Please see your Student handbook for a thorough explanation of the school absence, late work, and extension policies).

Planned absences must be arranged through the High School Office, and the student is responsible for obtaining a Planned Absence Form, getting it signed by all teachers, advisor and parent/guardian. ***This must be turned in prior to absence. The student is responsible for turning in any missed work ON TIME.***

As your teacher, I want you to succeed! If you have questions or concerns, ask early and ask often; help is always available.

Plagiarizing and Cheating

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarizing is a form of academic dishonesty wherein you try pass someone else's ideas as your own. This can happen when writing without the use of proper citations. To avoid this, quote your sources accurately, and cite them properly and often. When in doubt--give credit where credit is due!

Please do not cheat. Cheating is when your work is not your own; whether that is copying homework or during an exam, it is taking someone else's work. This is also a form of academic dishonesty and does not show me the caliber of your work and striving.

Plagiarizing and cheating are serious offenses and will be treated as such according to official school policy and may result in loss of credit and failure of this course. Further, they damage your integrity, my trust, and cheat you out of a chance to earn the fruits of your own work. (Please see the Student Handbook for a full explanation of PWS's Academic Honesty policy).

PWHS HOMEWORK FORMAT POLICY

- Homework that does not meet the formatting expectations listed below will be returned with no grade and counted as late.
 - All homework should be in blue or black pen, or typed as is appropriate
 - Pages with fringes (from spiral notebooks) are not acceptable.
 - Homework or drawings written or drawn in pencil is not acceptable unless otherwise noted by the teacher.
- Materials required in every class:
 - Black or blue pen; pencil; eraser; lined 3 hole paper; notebook or binder w/dividers for each class; colored pencils.
 - Students are expected to bring their day planner (provided by the school for ninth graders) to every class, every day, and to keep it up-to-date with all assignments. There will be pop planner checks.

WRITING STYLE SHEET

Formal essays should be written on white paper in blue or black ink or typed. If typed, the font should be a classic, (no comic sans or papyrus), no smaller than 10 point, and no larger than 12

point font, including the title. Main lesson books may be typed, or should be written in blue or black ink, unless otherwise specified by the teacher.

ROUGH DRAFTS: Double-Spaced, or lines skipped when handwritten.

FINAL DRAFTS: 1.5 spaced, or lines skipped when handwritten.

Margins should be one inch on all four sides.

Every page should have page numbers, whether in the top right hand corner or along the bottom.

First page:

- Place your name on the first line at the left of the page.
- Place the course name on the second line at the left of the page.
- Place the date on the third line at the left of the page.
- Center the title, underlined or bold, on the fourth line.
- Your essay must have a title and it should NOT be the same as the title of a book.
- DO NOT skip a line. At the end of a line, hit ENTER once and then TAB to indent the first word of the first paragraph. (See example below/next page.)

First Name Last Name

Name of Class (eg Senior Essay)

Month/Day/Year

Title May be BOLD or UNDERLINED

Please indent paragraphs by using the TAB key. All assignments, whether typed on the computer or hand-written, must conform to this format of indentation. Spelling and grammar both count on the final draft, and errors will result in a deduction of the grade. NO ASSIGNMENTS MAY BE TURNED IN ELECTRONICALLY. All assignments must be turned in as hardcopies. At the end of a paragraph do not leave a blank line, just press ENTER...

Once, and then TAB, so that the first word of the second paragraph is indented just like this. Yes, you will be held accountable for this. Papers turned in that are not in the proper format will be handed back and given 24 hours to correct--the FIRST TIME. Thereafter, any paper not in the proper format will either be handed back for no credit, or see a reduction in

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grade at the teacher's discretion.

For example, turning in something in pencil on a ragged piece of paper for a second time might earn a zero, while reversing the order of name/class/date in the upper left-hand corner might receive a deduction.

Please Note: For MLA format, to number each page AFTER the first one, the student is to place their LAST NAME and the number in the UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER. No # is used, simply write: Smith 2, or Smith 3 etc.