

Syllabus – Sophomore English Community

Central High Career Magnet Academy

Course Objectives: To prepare the student for college-level literacy skills through an intensive reading program, and to further the student's familiarity with the writing portfolio through the production of the various portfolio categories.

Introduction: What would happen if we were totally unable to communicate with one another? What kind of world would we live in? It would have been impossible for people to create our massive civilizations if language wasn't available as a tool. *The ability to transmit our thoughts and feelings to each other is the biggest key to the success of the human species.* Although we now know that other animals are capable of communication, they are nowhere near the complexity of our interactions. It is this complexity – the rules, meanings, and structure of our language – that makes it necessary for you to take English in some form throughout your K-12 years. You are a native of the information age. Your generation has been brought up surrounded by Dot Coms and hypertext. Today, more than ever, you need to hone your writing, reading, and speaking skills to perfection.

Requirements: Occasionally I will assign special projects, or we will read whole class novels, but for the most part there will be three standing requirements that will determine your grade. You are expected to meet these requirements every day.

Student Learning Logs and Reading Journals: You will need to purchase a composition notebook for this class. Each week, you are to complete five full pages based on reading prompts in this journal. This will count as 10 percent of your grade. Reading and writing conferences and learning logs will also count as 10 percent.

Assessments for Learning: You will write many papers during your sophomore year. A draft will be due each week. These drafts will count as 25 percent of your grade. A diagnostic reading test will be given at the beginning of each six weeks, and it will count as 10 percent. In class reading will count as 15 percent. You are required to read for 20 minutes at the start of each class period. If you sleep or do other work during this time, your grade will be affected.

Proficiency Assessment: The final portion of your grade will be based on a district proficiency test that you will take at the end of each six weeks. This test will count as 40 percent of your grade. If you fail the test, you will have to take the test again until you pass it.

Plagiarism: Copying information off the Internet or taking a paper from someone else and claiming it as an original is considered plagiarism. This is a form of cheating that is taken very seriously by colleges and universities where plagiarism can result in expulsion

from all classes. I do an Internet check on each paper turned into me. If I catch you plagiarizing, I will fail your for the assignment and insist that it be put on your permanent record so that your future college can be warned. Plagiarism is stealing, and in many cases cheaters have had to face criminal and civil court cases. Don't do it.

Gilbertsclass.com: I keep a website, www.gilbertsclass.com, for my students and their parents to keep up with the class. I will update the class schedule and handouts on the site. Throughout the year I will direct you to visit the site for various class projects.

Course Schedule:**First Six Weeks:**

Reading: Memoirs, and Short Fiction

Writing: Memoir, book responses

Second Six Weeks:

Reading: Other Literary Pieces and Poetry

Writing: Poetry (finished in 3rd six weeks), book responses

Third Six Weeks:

Reading: Poetry, selections for literary analysis

Writing: Literary Analysis, 1st Semester reflection

Fourth Six Weeks:

Reading: Reviews, Informational/Practical Workplace

Writing: Review, Hypertext, begin Feature Article

Fifth Six Weeks:

Reading: Persuasive Letters, Persuasive Speech

Writing: finish Feature Article, Persuasive Letter

Sixth Six Weeks:

Reading: Teacher Guided Reading Selection

Writing: Literacy Reflection, Literacy Portfolio

Required Materials for Class: You must bring reading journals and your selected book to class every day. Your agenda book and ID are required to use the computer labs.

Grading Breakdown:

Student Learning Journals and Logs – 20%

Assessment for Learning – 40%
Proficiency Assessment – 40%

JCPS Grading Scale

<u>Letter grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
A	93 – 100	<i>Exceeds Standards</i>
B	86 – 92	Meets Standards
C	79 – 85	Marginally Meets Standards
D	70 – 78	Below Standards
U	Below 70	Unsatisfactory Performance

How to Reach Me: Both you and your parents can contact me through email. My address is Jim.Gilbert@Jefferson.kyschools.us. I read my mail at least three times per day. You may also visit www.gilbertsclass.com for information.