

# Syllabus

## Class Description

This course is designed to offer students with strong language skills an opportunity for a highly challenging curriculum and awards college credit for high school work. Extensive reading, coupled with critical thinking and writing, literary criticism and analysis, are emphasized. Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research based expository and persuasive texts. Emphasis on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions. Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 or its equivalent.

**Credit: 1.0 (.5/semester); Weight: 1.10; A full-year course which fulfills the John Paul II 12th grade English requirements and Del Mar's Composition 1301-1302 requirements.**

## Essential Outcomes

1. Read, understand, and analyze literature from a variety of genres by using elements of text and critical literary theories to defend and clarify responses and interpretations;
2. Communicate clearly and effectively when making speeches, debating, or presenting new ideas using both traditional and digital mediums;
3. Write coherent, logical, and meaningful works of fiction and nonfiction, paying attention to the careful use of diction, voice, and tone;
4. Use advanced grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling, as well as a variety of syntactic techniques in sentence writing;
5. Evaluate, ethically use, and cite primary and secondary resources to inform, analyze, and synthesis ideas and arguments.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.
7. Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.
8. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence.
9. Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.
10. Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.)

## Class Texts

We will be reading a number of fiction and non-fiction texts as a class throughout the year. I will be looking for book reviews or other writing compositions on your blog and/or ePortfolio each quarter (see [ePortfolio](#) for more information). The following texts are required:

*The Norton Field Guide to Writing, with Readings and Handbook (3E)*

*The Little Seagull Handbook (2E)*

*Inferno* (Allen Mandelbaum trans.)

*Crime and Punishment*

*Lives on the Boundary* (Mike Rose)

*Reality is Broken* (Jane McGonigal)

## **Class Expectations**

1. Respect everyone. All are to be welcomed and treated as Christ.
2. Arrive to class on time. If you are not in the classroom by the second bell, you will be counted tardy.
3. Remain focused during the class. I do not require silence, but I do require you to remain on-task. All conversations must apply to the work at hand.
4. Come to class with all materials necessary.
5. The first few minutes of class are reserved for you to prepare yourself (getting books ready, homework out, etc...). During this time, I will take attendance and check for homework completion. This is not the time to ask me about work missed.
6. If you wish to ask/answer a question or leave the classroom, please raise your hand.
7. You are responsible for asking your classmates what you missed if you leave the classroom.
8. Because of the nature of the work we do in the humanities, you are allowed to use smart phones, laptops, and tablets in the classroom for work. If you misuse this privilege, your device(s) will be taken away and sent to the office according to the school's policies.
9. Eating and drinking are not permitted in the classroom.
10. All rules and procedures of Blessed John Paul II High School are in effect in the classroom.

## **Supplies**

- Filing system of your choice
- College-ruled paper (loose-leaf or perforated notebook)
- A portable collegiate dictionary
- Blue or Black ink pens (no other colors will be allowed)
- 1-2 G Flash Drive
- 1 ream of copy paper
- A pair of headphones
- Recommended, but not necessary: laptop, tablet, or smartphone
- Access to following programs:
  - A movie maker (Windows MovieMaker, iMovie, Camtasia, Adobe Premiere Pro, etc...)
  - An audio program (Camtasia, Garageband, Audacity, Adobe Audition, etc...)
  - Screen recording software (Fraps, Quicktime Player)
  - Video recorder (smart phone, camera, etc...)
  - Audio recorder (smart phone, laptop with microphone, etc...)
  - Personal Youtube account

## **Digital Media**

This class will rely heavily on computer-based and internet-based programs. It is helpful, but not required, for you to bring a laptop, smartphone, and/or tablet to class. If you do not have access to any of these devices, it is not necessary for you to purchase one to be successful in this class. I will work with you to ensure you have internet and computer access as you need it. However, it is important that you have computer and internet access at home. If you do not, you must either make arrangements with me to use the four computers in my classroom, the computer lab at your local public library, or one of the computers in the library.

## **Library Card**

I strongly encourage you to obtain a library card at your local public library. This library card will give you access to the library's computer lab and online research databases. Again, this is not required, but strongly encouraged.

## ***Make-Up Work / Late Work / Blogs / Lab/ Attendance***

- Make-Up Work:** All work is due on the expected due date. If you are absent, you must email the assignment to me by the beginning of your class period. No exceptions.
- Late Work:** Late work is not accepted under ANY circumstances.
- Blogs:** A weekly blog post is required as part of the class. Please see the “ePortfolio” section for more information.
- ENGL 1301 Lab:** Fifteen (15) hours of lab must be completed as a component of the English course. Students are required to attend 13 lab sessions, each lasting 50 minutes, with the additional two hours of lab comprising a one-hour Lab Project and one-hour Lab Portfolio. In compliance with departmental policy, students will receive a grade for the One-Hour Writing Lab, comprising 10 % of the English course grade. Active participation in the learning process is essential to receive credit for attending lab.
- Attendance Policy:** You are required to attend ALL classes, to be on time, and to remain for the entire class. Because ENGL 1301 requires so much discourse activity during class, students who have excessive absences (excused or unexcused) cannot expect to do well. If you are absent, you are responsible for knowing about assignments given during your absence(s) and must return to class prepared with assigned work and/or prepared for any in-class activity (discussion, quiz, etc.). Students may be dropped from the dual credit program if Del Mar’s absence policy is not followed. For an absence due to illness to be deemed excused for Del Mar, student MUST provide an excuse from a doctor or clinic (notes from home do not constitute excused absences). Also, visiting with the counselor, attending a presentation for a college or university, doing work in other classes, filling out FAFSA or college applications, and the like do NOT constitute excused absences and need to be done outside of class time—i.e., you do not have permission to miss class to do things for other classes, for other teachers, and/or for paper work that you can do before or after school unless it is cleared by me in advance.

## ***ePortfolio***

You will be required to keep an electronic portfolio, or ePortfolio, as a requirement for this class. Your ePortfolio will count as your final exam, so it must be kept updated at all times. The ePortfolio is a curation of all the work you have completed during the semester. Every artifact must be cross-referenced with at least one class essential outcome and should demonstrate mastery of the outcome(s).

As part of your ePortfolio, you will be keeping a public blog. It is important that the blog remain public as you learn to write authentic compositions for authentic audiences. Your blog will be a record of your experiences in the class: reviews of books you have read, arguments concerning ideas you have encountered, online discussions with your peers, creative writing, and the like. While some creations will be assigned, the majority will be designed by you.

You can choose your own platform(s) for your ePortfolio and your blog, or you can use **Weebly**. I will spend time with you during the second or third week of school to set up your ePortfolio and blogging platforms, as well as get you started with **Storify**.

## ***Academic Integrity***

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a school. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the challenge, to disciplinary sanctions from the administration, ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

## ***Contract***

Your presence in this class assumes understanding and acceptance of the rules and terms as set forth in this document, both on your part and the part of your parent(s)/guardian(s). If you do not understand and/or cannot accept any terms, please see me before the end of the second week of school. After this time, all students and parents are bound by the rules and terms set forth in this document.

