

MBCI ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
GRADE 10 ELA 2016-2017

Instructor: Mr. W. Koslowsky

Room: 5104

Course Code: ELA20F

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Understanding and expressing ideas is at the heart of language arts instruction. This course concentrates on the study of literature and rhetoric (the art of expression) through different modes of communication. The course will encourage students to improve their abilities to communicate in written and verbal ways, as well as develop their skills in understanding and representing various forms of communication.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be challenged to speak and write information in clear, concise and explicit form, attending to specific purpose and audience, and to listen, view, read, and represent information critically and efficiently.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The school year consists of 2 reporting periods (September – January, & January – June) worth 80% of the year, and a final examination in June, worth 20% of the year.

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES

- **(40%) Comprehend & Respond** to various communications, including both print and non-print media.
- **(40%) Compose & Create** various works of creative and expository writing, presentations, and other forms of language arts.
- **(20%) Engage, Assess, & Reflect** with regards to course content, work ethic, group work, self and peer assessment, as well as overall awareness of self and society.
- **Final Exam** measuring the student's overall mastery of material covered throughout the year.

OVERVIEW OF ASSESSMENT

The aforementioned categories embody skills pertaining to the six different modes of literacy, which include speaking/listening, reading/writing, and viewing/representing. Each assignment, project, and test will fall into one or more of these categories, and will measure the student's ability as it pertains to each mode of literacy.

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND OFTEN BLENDED)

1. **Public Speaking**
 - Effective communication skills employed throughout different genres of presenting
2. **Short Stories**
 - *The Wasteland*
 - The importance of context
 - *Genesis & Catastrophe*
 - Issues of Ethics and Morality
 - *Man From the South*
 - A look at characterization, including 8 ways to develop character in writing
 - *The Bet*
 - Responding critically to text
 - *Lady or The Tiger*
 - A recap of short story elements and literary devices
 - *The Tell-Tale Heart*
 - An Introduction to Literary Essays
 - Choosing and integrating quotations
3. **Novel Study: *Frankenstein (abridged)***
 - Elements of scary stories
 - Tracing theme throughout a work of classic literature
 - Connecting classics to modernity
4. **Classical Greek Mythology**
 - The Myths of Greek gods, goddesses, demi-gods, heroes and mortals
 - The Hero's Journey
 - Effective note-taking and conducting online research
 - An introduction to comparative essay writing
5. **Independent Novel Study: *Life of Pi or Lord of the Flies***
 - Fact vs. fiction, and the ambiguous space between
 - Assignment: Every Great Author Is A Better Thief
6. **A Look into WWII**
 - a. **Memoir: *The Pianist***
 - Studying the Journey of Self
 - Grammar:
 - Common sentence problems
 - Sentence elements and parts of speech
 - b. **Novel: *The Book Thief***
 - Practicing perspective in writing, and other creative writing endeavors
7. **Play: Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night***
 - Unpacking the brilliance of the Bard
 - Memory: The lost discipline of Total Recall

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Respect** – The number one rule in this course is that both the instructor and the students must be respectful - to each other, to themselves, and to their surroundings. If everybody abides by this rule, everything will go swimmingly. If the necessary level of respect breaks down, however, the course will not work as it should. So, that being said, there will be little tolerance regarding disrespectful behaviour, and necessary actions will be taken to help fix any problems in this area.
2. **General Behaviour** – This classroom is not meant to be a rule-driven environment, but there are certain behaviours that are expected. They are as follows:
 - a. I am committed to help you succeed in this course and to take you seriously. If you have any questions or concerns regarding course material, assignments or marks, please feel free to come and discuss them with me.
 - b. The onus is on you to engage with the material presented in this course. This includes engaging in class discussions, classroom activities, etc.
 - c. You are expected to arrive to class on time, seated before the final bell rings.
 - d. No food or drink in the class with the exception of water, tea, or coffee – unless, of course, that privilege is abused.
 - e. The use of cell phone and listening devices is permitted in the classroom only under the direction of the supervising teacher or staff member.
 - f. Mp3 players may be used on **teacher approved** occasions, such as certain silent reading, writing, or work periods, with the following caveats:
 - i. During these teacher-approved situations, the device must be listened to at a reasonable volume so as not to distract others.
 - ii. At the request of the instructor, the use of the device must desist.
 - iii. If the device proves to be a distraction for the user, or if the student is unable to use it appropriately, this privilege will be revoked.
 - g. You should **not** leave the room during class time. (A.k.a. Go to the washroom before/after class.)
 - h. You are expected to complete all course work, and to do so on time.
 - i. All written work should be typed, following MLA conventions.
3. **Student Absences** – It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any materials or information missed during an absence. Marks that are given for classroom participation, assignment deadlines, and presentations will not suffer due to **unavoidable** absences (see school policy). These marks, however, will be adversely impacted by **unexcused** absences, as attendance in this course is expected. Foreseen absences are to be discussed with the instructor beforehand. Students who miss a test will be required to write an alternative one in the LAR.
4. **Homework** – It is my goal to minimize homework for my students, but there will be times where out-of-class work will be required (such as reading, writing, researching, watching movies, as well as preparing for projects, presentations, and tests.) Students at this level are expected to work towards being self-motivated and independent, taking responsibility for their own learning, organization, and levels of engagement. Sporadic homework checks will occur to assess the students in this regard.

- 5. Assignment Deadlines** – Due to the intense nature of this course, deadlines are essential in order to cover and complete all of the necessary material planned for this program.
- a. If a student is unable to meet a deadline, it is advisable that he or she speak with the instructor **before** the due date to make alternate arrangements. Flexibility in this regard will vary, as some deadlines must be met, while others will allow for some leniency.
 - b. Extensions are reserved for exceptional circumstances – sports, music, assignments from other courses, or simply being too busy does not qualify as an exceptional circumstance.
 - c. Late assignments are subject to a 5% deduction per day. All projects and assignments must be completed during the reporting period in which they are assigned in order to qualify for a mark.
 - * Please note that weekends constitute the equivalent of one day late.
- 6. Plagiarism** – Plagiarism is the use of the words, thoughts, and ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement, and includes handing in work that has been previously submitted in another course. Plagiarism will result in the student being given a zero for the assignment, as well as any administrative consequences that are deemed necessary and appropriate.