**School of the Arts**

**CONTEMPORARY WRITERS (11th grade)**

2019-2020

Instructor: Ms. Marcy Gamzon

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Rm. A239  Per. ½  B/D   40 Weeks,

Course blog: [contemporarywriters09.blogspot.com](https://mail.rcsdk12.org/OWA/UrlBlockedError.aspx)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students will read works by numerous noted contemporary authors in a variety of writing genres.  These works will serve as a source of style and technique from which students can model their own writing and an inspiration for student work in terms of themes and contemporary issues. This course addresses the NYS COMMON CORE Anchor Standards for ELA.

 LONG RANGE PLAN:

**TEXTS FOR 2015-2016: (to be selected from full length novels, nonfiction and poetry) and major assignments**

**SEPTEMBER: Jordan, Hilary   *Mudbound* (Writing multiple perspective narrative)**

**OCTOBER: Moore, Christopher *Bloodsucking Fiends (*Writing parody*)***

**Dove, Rita.  *Selected Poems   (*Writing poetry cycles*)***

**NOVEMBER: Collins, Billy  *Selected Poems*; Carver, Raymond *Selected Poems;*Neruda, Pablo *Twenty Love Poems* ; additional poets**

**DECEMBER: O’Nan, Stewart.  *A Prayer for the Dying* (Writing in 2nd person)**

**JANUARY: Sedaris, David.  *Me Talk Pretty One Day (*Writing humor and creative nonfiction)**

**FEBRUARY: Writers and Books selection**

**MARCH: O’Brien, Tim. *In the Lake of the Woods (*using postmodern multigenre techniques in narrative)**

**APRIL: Cunningham, Michael. *The Hours*(interweaving multiple story lines)**

**MAY/ JUNE: Contemporary Writers Project portfolio**

**(Other possible texts)  Michaels, Anne.  *Fugitive Pieces***

**Dean, Debra  *The Madonnas of Leningrad***

**Fforde, Jasper. *The Eyre Affair***

**Haig, Matt.  *Dead* *Fathers’ Club***

**Kingsolver, Barbara.  *Animal Dreams***

**plus varied short fiction, drama, poetry, and prose**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

* -Students will read and discuss the selected works of contemporary writers as a source of information about and affirmation of human experience, beliefs, and values.
* -Students will examine for understanding what makes an individual piece of writing successful.
* -Students will compose writing in a variety of genres.
* -Students will demonstrate a sense of purpose with their writings.
* -Students will explore the importance of audience with their writings.
* -Students will experiment with and discover their own writer’s voice.
* -Students will practice various writing techniques: personal narrative, journal and autobiography, poetry, fiction, and drama
* -Students will initiate writing projects useful to the individual writer
* -Students will share writing in a workshop setting, learning how to give and receive constructive criticism for the improvement of their writing (writers circle).  They will reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their own work and the work of others.
* -Students will learn to appreciate writing in a way that will motivate them to write after the course is over.
* -Students will be able to understand the creative process and how it relates to their work.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**:

* -Students  will create a portfolio of their individual work on a quarterly basis.  The final quarter will involve an independent project designed by the student.
* -Students will be assessed according to a rubric designed to reflect: teacher and peer conferencing, participation in class and writers circle, efforts at revision, completion of assignments, and presentation/publication of work.  This rubric will be presented at the beginning of the year and discussed at appropriate intervals.  Self-assessment forms will be completed by the student each quarter as a tool for revision and self-reflection.
* -Active participation in class assignments
* -Completion of individual and group projects
* -Cooperation with peers and respect for each artist’s individuality

**COURSE EVALUATION/GRADING SYSTEM CRITERIA:**

**Quizzes/Tests on readings          15%**

**Classwork/ Participation (Reader responses on blogs and writing practices)          35%**

**Marking  period portfolio assessment/ major projects        50%**

**REQUIRED SUPPLIES**: Class folder for handouts, pens, flash (jump) drive, possibly additional supplies for individual projects

 \*\*\*Writing has both a private and public nature.  As a writer, you will often feel it necessary to write things you feel strongly about in your journal or your personal diary.  This kind of writing you may or may not wish to share with your teacher, family members, or a friend.  However, any writing to be shared with the class or submitted for publication must meet community standards of decency and literary or artistic merit.  Writing that contains gratuitous (unnecessary) violence, profanity, or explicit sex is inappropriate for classroom consideration or publication.

 CONTACT:

**For parents: Please contact me at school or home, preferably by email, with any questions or concerns you have about your student’s progress.  I will try to respond as soon as possible so that we can ensure your student's success in this course.  Please register with PARENT/CONNECT for information about your student’s progress and assignments.**

**For students: Questions are good and are encouraged.  Feel free to talk to me in class or set up an appointment for a conference regarding your concerns. Involvement and meeting the given requirements are very important for student success in this course.  Please sign your name to indicate that you understand the requirements of this course.**

**Failure to comply with the above expectations will result in a meeting between us  to discuss how to improve the problem area.  Please sign below to indicate that you understand the expectations of this course.**

**WORK POLICY/LATE POLICY:**

I will probably extend a deadline if you see me in a timely manner, such as a day or two **BEFORE** the assignment is due. Please pre-plan and ask questions.

**Late work will receive a 5/10 grade until it is completed in a timely fashion (10 days max). Then it will receive a 7/10 for late.  If not completed in time, the grade will be a 0.**

**TARDY/ATTENDANCE POLICY:  Students are required to be in class on time.  If you are tardy, you must sign in on the Tardy Log.  Excessive tardies (especially periods 1 and 2) will require a consequence of detention to make up missing class participation and classwork.**

**Important Dates:**Curriculum Night – Sept 17   6-8 PM.

Parent teacher conference dates:   10/17 5-7

CW DATES: Readers Theatre October 17 and 18, Fall Coffeehouse November 20, Playwrights Festival, March 19 and 20, Spring Coffeehouse May 18

**Classroom Plan**

**Be on time, Be prepared, Be engaged.**

            Early is on time!   On time is late! 

**Electronics**Technology as required by a specific assignment.

To include but *not* limited:  ear buds or headphones for writing work with teacher permission.

**NON-NEGOTIABLES – Immediate removal from classroom**

To include but not limited to:  Fighting; both physical and verbal, vandalism, theft, chronic disruption, and suspicion of being under the influence of illegal substances.

Expectations:   
 

           How do you want me to treat you? RESPECT. FAIRNESS.

           How do you want to treat one another? RESPECT. FAIRNESS.

           How do you think I want to be treated? RESPECT

           How should we treat one another when there's a conflict? ACTIVE LISTENING.  WORK OUT A WIN-Win



AGREED UPON:

Norms for Discussion:

Student Rights:

1. You have the right to ask questions.

2. You have the right to be treated respectfully.

3. You have the right to have your work/ideas discussed, not you personally.

Student Responsibilities:

1. You must speak loudly enough for others to hear.

2. If you cannot hear or understand what someone says, you must ask him or her to say it again.

3. You are expected to agree or disagree (and explain why) in response to other people’s ideas (active listening and participation).

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Please sign, tear off and return.

**Parent/Guardian Signature (PRINT and SIGN):**

**(PRINT)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    (SIGN)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature  (PRINT and SIGN):**

**(PRINT)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    (SIGN)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments, questions :**