

Alexis I. duPont High School – 11th Grade English (College Preparatory)

Course Description: This course is designed for *college-bound* juniors, covering the research process, various modes of literature, emphasizing the three primary skill modes : critical reading, critical thinking, and critical writing. You will be working on a RESEARCH PAPER at the start of the year. We will cover all research skills, and you will be graded on each step of the research process. After the research paper, we will study one novel and two plays, each carrying the theme of **man versus impossible odds**. At the end of the year, we will do an overview of American Literature. Vocabulary studies will be literature-based, and diagnostic grammar mini-lessons will be featured as needed. . Your grade will be dependent on earning points for all assignments -- the calculation of each grade will be the percentage of points you earn divided by the possible total points.

Course Expectations: Each student is expected to arrive promptly to class **PREPARED** with writing materials, class notebook, textbook (when needed), and any materials being studied at that time. **FAILURE** to meet these requirements will result in serious injury to your grade (see **Daily Requirements** section of this syllabus). The five classroom behavior requirements apply at all times, in all situations: **RESPECT, FAIR PLAY, PEER SUPPORT, SENSE OF HUMOR, AND ADHERENCE TO ALL SCHOOL RULES.** **DEFIANCE** of my authority or these requirements **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** and will result in loss of daily points, administrative referral, and exclusion from my class. Additional rules will be established as the need arises.

Texts:

Elements of Literature – Fifth Course (Holt, Reinhart, Winston, 2005)

<u>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</u>	novel by Ken Kesey	} Thematic thread:
"The Elephant Man"	play by Bernard Pomerance	} man versus the world:
"The Crucible"	play by Arthur Miller	} its adversity reflected through impossible odds

assorted teacher-generated materials: articles, films, etc

Grades:

According to the Red Clay Consolidated School District requirements:

100 - 93	A
92 - 85	B
84 - 77	C
76 - 70	D
Below 70	F

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS MAKE UP 20% OF
YOUR GRADE

Daily Grade Requirements: In addition to your work grades, you will be responsible for 10 points each day in class. Simply, to earn the full 10 points for each day, you must be present, on time, participate, and be prepared with the appropriate text, notebook, homework and writing materials. Basically, you earn points for being a normal student. Any shortcomings concerning these requirements will result in subtractions from your daily grade. Some examples are below:

unexcused late	loss of 4 points
no notebook, text, other materials	loss of 3-5 points
no participation	loss of 5-7 points
disruption/lack of attention/sleeping	loss of <i>entire</i> 10 points

An **unexcused absence**, removal from my room or sleeping will result in a 0 for the day. These points can NOT be made up. However, the daily points for an **excused absence** will be replaced if you make up the work for that time period.

IMPORTANT: A bad daily grade average can turn an A into an F; a major part of your success in this class is your ability to conduct yourself as a student. A bad performance in day to day class will erase points earned by good paper work. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!!

Our Agreement as to Late Work/Absences/ Make-up/Extra Credit: If you do not attend my class REGULARLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY (acting like you care), ***YOU WILL FAIL THIS COURSE -- GUARANTEED.*** Acceptance of late work (NOTE: some work CANNOT be turned in late and some will lose points for each day late), make-up work, and work provided for absences is SOLELY UP TO ME. I am willing to work with you for your benefit under almost any circumstances; HOWEVER, IF NO INTEREST OR EFFORT IS SHOWN CONSISTENTLY ON YOUR PART, I WILL BE **EXTREMELY RELUCTANT** TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS, OR BE LENIENT IN ANY WAY. It is **your responsibility** to meet me at LEAST half way. *If you don't care, you can't expect others to work harder than you for your grade. The real world works this way. Trust me!!!*

Extra Credit Policy: I accept both writing and artwork for extra credit. The artwork MUST be related to the unit or literature we're reading presently in class. The writing can take just about any form: poetry, lyrics, journal entries, stories, papers, etc. I prefer that extra credit NOT be work done for other classes. ***ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE CORRECT GRAMMATICALLY AND SPELLING-WISE.*** You can earn up to 200 points of extra credit a marking period (up to 25 points a page – maximum of 8 pages), ONLY IF **ALL** YOUR CLASS WORK AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE TURNED IN.

Re-Do Policy: A good portion of class assignments can be RE-DONE for a higher grade. You can re-do an assignment until you receive the grade you desire. *However, you must TELL me that you wish to re-do an assignment, so I can give you a due date.* The re-done assignment CANNOT BE turned in after the due date. Also, THE ORIGINAL ASSIGNMENT MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE RE-DONE VERSION, OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The re-do grade replaces the original grade completely.

Admit Slips and Early D's

1. I MUST see admit slips for excused absences within **ONE WEEK** of the absence for it to be considered excused. There will be NO long lists of dates excused/piles of admit slips accepted at the end of a marking period, so DON'T ASK. I don't want to hear "I forgot to show you the slip(s). . . ."
2. I prefer to see early dismissal slips THE DAY OF THE DISMISSAL. That way, my records are accurate, and you can get the work/information for that class period. ***IF A MAJOR ASSIGNMENT OR PROJECT IS DUE THAT CLASS PERIOD, IT MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE YOU LEAVE – NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!***

11th grade Notebook

Purpose #1: YES, THIS IS A COURSE REQUIREMENT!!! The notebook has many purposes. It is a record of your and the course's movement throughout the year. This is a record for BOTH of us. Sometimes we need to look back on materials covered, and you need a study guide for papers, midterms, and finals.

Purpose #2: MAJOR PAPERS AND YOUR PORTFOLIO: Your major pieces of writing should be saved and used to form your own writing portfolio – you never know when you could need/be asked for a writing sample.

WHAT YOU MUST DO:

1. Take notes when required or asked to do so -- date them and keep them organized.
2. Keep ALL WORK . This means anything I give you, anything you complete, articles, stories, etc. It is advised that you keep these in chronological order, according to the date stamp I give all turned in work. These will be checked each marking period.
You will need the following sections CLEARLY divided in your notebook: 1) NOTES
2) THE RESEARCH PAPER 3) ASSIGNMENTS/ HOMEWORK 4) ESSAYS 5) VOCABULARY.
Failure to keep a notebook will not only cause you to become clueless about what we've previously covered, it is a requirement, and 100 points of each marking period point total. Your notebook eliminates the possibility of lost work, or "I handed that IN!!!" arguments. **APPEARANCE OF THE NOTEBOOK CAN EITHER DESTROY, OR BOOST YOUR NOTEBOOK GRADE.**

Special Failure Policy: This is an extremely important policy for this class. DEADLINES and MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS have an effect on both assignments' and marking period grades. As mentioned above, work loses points if it is late. This especially applies to MAJOR PAPERS and MAJOR PROJECTS. **IMPORTANT:** Even if a MAJOR ASSIGNMENT is so far past the deadline that little or no credit can be given -- IT MUST BE HANDED IN. FAILURE TO HAND IN ANY MAJOR ASSIGNMENT OR PROJECT WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC FAILURE FOR THAT MARKING PERIOD. **PLEASE READ THE ABOVE AGAIN.** ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

End of Marking Period Deadlines: THE DAY AND DATE POSTED FOR MAKE-UP WORK AT THE END OF EACH MARKING PERIOD IS NOT NEGOTIABLE – it is set in STONE !!!. You will have plenty of advance notice about this date. Unless you are absent for an extended period of time at the end of the marking period (this usually results in an incomplete grade if arranged personally between you and me), work and notebooks ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED after the deadline date, *EVEN IF YOU HAVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR THAT DAY.* **AGAIN, ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. . IF YOU PLAY A SPORT, READ THE ABOVE TWO PARAGRAPHS AGAIN!! YOU NEED TO BE PASSING THIS CLASS IN ORDER TO PLAY!!!**

Passes From Class

I abide by and enforce the "three pass rule," which only allows you THREE passes per marking period, NO MORE. If you do NOT use your three passes, EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE AWARDED FOR THAT MARKING PERIOD (10 points per unused pass), but passes do NOT "HOLD OVER" into the next marking period. If you use all three & need more, you may "BORROW" from the following marking period, but this is NOT ADVISED, because you may need those passes for future unforeseen reasons.

CONTRACT/PARENT (or guardian)/CHILD PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Both parties have read, discussed and understood *ALL* the above material and requirements contained in this document and AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE REQUIREMENTS STATED **THEREIN**. We understand that the student's educational success depends on a THREE-WAY PARTNERSHIP of support and guidance, involving us and Ms. Conner. We reserve the right to question, discuss, and involve ourselves in this course whenever one member of this partnership feels it is necessary. [A copy of this will be retained for records, and the student must keep the original course description and signed contract in his/her notebook for the ENTIRE year.]

STUDENT: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

PARENT(S) GUARDIAN(S): _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Ms. Conner's contact information:

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