

Syllabus – Junior English Community

Central High Career Magnet Academy

Course Objective: To develop advanced literary analysis skills that can apply to all forms of texts, and provide a framework that will better prepare the student's ability to create portfolio suitable writings.

Introduction: Junior year is the toughest year in high school. Most of the year-end tests (EOCs) are given in the 11th grade. College is looming, and post secondary preparation swings into full gear. This is the “weeding out” year – it will be determined whether you are eligible for most scholarships based on your performance on the ACT. The score you attain on the ACT will be the major lens that colleges will view your ability to survive the academics of higher learning. And because the ACT is so important, most of my instruction this year will focus on advancing your scores in the English and reading sections of this test.

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

Writing: You will have a working writing folder kept in the classroom where you will keep your formal written drafts. During this year you will produce a writing portfolio consisting of five polished pieces. You will pick these five pieces from a repertoire of assignments this year. Every six weeks we will focus on different genres of writing, and you will take all pieces through the entire writing process. Your writing will be compiled at the end of the year and added to your collective high school portfolio. Writing will make up 40 percent of your final grade.

Reading and Blog: We will read in class every day. I will choose two books during the course of the year for whole class readings. You will be allowed to choose books for independent reading once you have completed the class books. As a record of your reading, you will keep an annotated bibliography of your books. This year you will also keep a web log (blog) for class credit. We will create the blog in class, and you will have to write in it every week. I will post the assignments on my website, www.gilbertsclass.com, and you will respond on your blog for homework. I will read your blogs weekly to make sure you're you are keeping up. Reading and blogs will count as 20 percent of your grade.

Classwork: We will do various worksheets and short essays throughout the year, as well as classroom participation. This will count as an additional 20 percent of your grade.

Proficiency Assessment: The district requires that you take a series of ACT based diagnostic and proficiency assessments throughout the year. There will be a total of ten tests from September to February. Your score on these assessments will count as the final 20 percent of your grade.

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:

1st 6 Weeks

Writing – Personal essay
Whole class reading – *Brave New World*
Start annotated bibliographies

2nd 6 Weeks

Writing – Persuasive speech
Informational reading – various non-fiction
Technology based research pieces
On demand practice

3rd 6 Weeks

Writing – Editorial
Rhetorical reading – various non-fiction
On demand practice

4th 6 Weeks

Writing – Literary analysis
Whole class reading – *TBA*
On demand practice

5th 6 Weeks

Writing – Rhetorical analysis
Technology based research pieces

ACT review

Final 6 Weeks

Writing – Reflective

Compile portfolio

Complete annotated bibliography

Grading Breakdown:

Writing Assignments – 40%

Reading and Journals – 20%

Classwork – 20%

Proficiency Assessment – 20%

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.

How to Reach Me: Both you and your parents can contact me through email. My address is jgilber1@jefferson.k12.ky.us. I read my mail at least three times per day.