

ENGLISH 12

Mount Vernon High School

Course Syllabus 2021 - 2022



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Teacher Information

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Office Hours: By appointment

****Back to School Night is September 1, 2021 | 6:00-8:00 PM.****

Course and Classroom Information and Objectives

In this course, students will read and analyze a variety of literary and nonfiction texts, comparing and contrasting the techniques authors use in literature. The focus of the literature will be on British and World Literature texts. Language study will continue to extend the students' vocabulary through vocabulary (connotations, denotations) and word origins and structures. Students will apply their understanding of grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence and paragraph structure through varied and frequent writing assignments. Students will expand their understanding of writing as a process and develop their skills in revision by writing expository and analytical essays. Throughout the course, students will develop their media literacy and research skills through a variety of assignments. They will also improve their communication skills through small group discussions, presentations, and collaborative assignments.

The grade earned at the end of the school year will indicate the level of achievement in accordance with the POS or other designated curriculum.

Course Texts & Regulation 3005

During the 2021-2022 school year, all students will have access to an online textbook, Pearson's myPerspectives: Grade 12. Students will also have access to NoRedInk. These two resources are closely aligned with the revised Standards of Learning (2017). A hardcopy of the textbook, Pearson's myPerspectives is available upon request. Students will be responsible for the full, new, replacement price of any print text that is lost or damaged. It is imperative that students log into class with a charged laptop- not a cell phone- to class to access these materials.

REGULATION 3005

This year we will read a variety of texts including novels and book-length nonfiction. As a class, we will read books that meet our course objectives and provide us with the opportunity to explore issues faced by society today and throughout history. A committee of administrators, teachers, and parents at your school has approved these books. Our course texts may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Works from our online textbook, Pearson's *myPerspectives: Grade 12/British and World Literature*
- *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
- *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer
- *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore
- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
- *Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin
- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
- Various Plays and works from William Shakespeare
- Poetry from various authors
- Various articles from JSTOR, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Scholastic Upfront Magazine*, *CommonLit*, *Learning Ally*, *NewsELA*, and other nonfiction publications
- Other texts and materials will be used (typically excerpts) at the teacher's discretion, and may include articles, poetry, short stories, and various visual media.

****Please note that some of the books you will read this year may contain mature content and/or controversial material (i.e. offensive language, violence, and/or implied or explicit sexual situations). The resources listed below can be used to see book reviews and get more information about the books we will use in our class. ****

- Fairfax County Library <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>
- Bartleby.com: Great Books Online <http://www.bartleby.com>
- Book Reporter <http://www.bookreporter.com>
- Book Spot <http://www.bookspot.com/>
- Teen Reads <http://www.teenreads.com>

If your parent or guardian would like to review any of these texts or request an alternate reading assignment or would like a copy of each novel to review, please contact me directly by email at caneville@fcps.edu.

Technology Requirement for All Students

Mount Vernon High School is a one to one laptop school. Every student must have a device to include: personal or school laptop, chromebook, and/or tablet. Phones do not meet this requirement.

All students are expected to comply with all FCPS Student Rights and Responsibility requirements when using the school issued laptop or their own personal electronic device. Students can bring their personal laptop or tablet as long as the student equipment meets or adheres to the below requirements.

All students are required to have a charged computer for learning this year. Students must:

1. Use a device with access to a full keyboard
2. Use a device compatible with Schoology, Google Apps for Education, and Microsoft Office.

If you need additional information regarding the MVHS Laptop Program including the steps for securing a laptop for your child's use for the upcoming school year, access the MVHS website for the latest information: <https://mountvernonhs.fcps.edu/resources/technology-resources>

Syllabus Link- Parents, please follow [this link](#) to give permission for your student to access supplemental tech tools. These tools are critical to creating an effective, engaging classroom (or virtual classroom) experience.

Schoology



Schoology

Click [here](#) to go to Schoology.

Schoology is FCPS's new Learning Management System (LMS), effectively combining the functionality of BlackBoard and Google Classroom. You will be able to contact your teachers, complete assignments, and access other online platforms via this LMS.

Grading Policy

Rubrics will be used for the grading of most major projects; rubrics will be given to the class along with the assignment. Grades are calculated on a point system and are weighted accordingly:

40% Summative Assessments, 40% Formative Assessments, and 20% Homework and Classwork

Summative assignments measure a student's level of mastery of the standard(s) being assessed, based on the Virginia Standards of Learning. Summative assessments will include, but are not limited to the following formats:

Essays	Socratic Seminars	Presentations
Tests	Projects	Speeches

Formative assessments are assignments designed to teach and reinforce the skills needed to complete major assessments. Formative assessments will include, but are not limited to the following formats:

Quizzes	40%
Classwork	10%
Homework	10%

If a student turns in an assignment and earns an F(63% or lower), the grade will be recorded in SiS as an F and will equal 0.7. If a student does not turn in an assignment, it will be coded as NTI (Not Turned In) in SiS and will equal 0. Work marked as NTI can be submitted until the end of the unit.

Assignments will be graded and grades will be posted within 7 school days after the due date with the understanding that major projects/papers may require additional time to ensure quality feedback.

MVHS GRADING POLICY

MVHS teachers utilize a rolling (cumulative) gradebook and a 4.0 scale to record and calculate grades. A rolling gradebook allows for progress towards a final mark that captures the total picture of student grades, regardless of length of quarter or number of assignments in each quarter. MVHS believes it is important to utilize a gradebook type that provides maximum flexibility and ensures equitable grading practices to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all students.

With a rolling gradebook, grades for individual assignments from each quarter carry over and build upon the previous quarter; therefore, quarter grades are a snapshot of a student's current progress in the course and demonstrate performance to that date, not just for that quarter. Final grades are determined from all assignments and assessments throughout the year, regardless of the quarter the work was completed.

A rolling gradebook is an approved gradebook type per [Secondary Grading & Reporting Policy](#)

Benefits associated with using a rolling gradebook include:

- Allows time for demonstrating mastery of content and opportunities for remediation, completing make-up work & retakes (following established school, department or collaborative team policies)
- Helps students maintain positive mental health when setbacks occur
- Reports long-term progress to students as the year progresses, not just short-term achievement in each quarter
- Provides a more accurate reflection of the student grade at any given point in time
- Reduces number of tests or large projects due at the same time over multiple classes (usually at end of quarter)
- Negates imbalance of quantity of assessments within each quarter and timing challenges at certain times of year
- Encourages content units to end naturally and not get rushed due to quarter breaks

To learn more details about a rolling gradebook to include how it will look in SIS Student/ParentVUE, please take time to review the following [video](#). Teachers will communicate grading design and policies via the course syllabus. Students/parents are encouraged to reach out directly to the teacher with additional questions.

Learning	Definition	Grade	4.0 scale	Percentage
Mastery	Designates the status of a student who consistently demonstrates accurate and complete knowledge of content and skills specified in the FCPS Program of Studies (POS) and applies that knowledge to solve problems in a variety of settings.	A	3.8-4.0	93-100%
		A-	3.4-3.7	90-92%
Approaching Mastery	Designates the status of a student who demonstrates knowledge of content and skills specified in the FCPS POS, with some improvement needed in accuracy and/or consistency in performance, applying that knowledge to solve problems in a variety of settings.	B+	3.1-3.3	87-89% ▾
		B	2.8-3.0	83-86%
		B-	2.4-2.7	80-82%
Proficient	Designates the status of a student who demonstrates knowledge of basic content and skills specified in the FCPS POS, but requires additional practice and instructional experiences to acquire skills necessary to solve problems.	C+	2.1-2.3	77-79%
		C	1.8-2.0	73-76%
		C-	1.4-1.7	70-72%
Approaching Proficiency	Designates the status of a student who needs significant practice and instructional experiences to acquire the knowledge of basic content and skills specified in the FCPS POS necessary to solve problems. As a final mark, it is not necessarily sufficient to meet the prerequisite requirements	D+	1.1-1.3	67-69%
		D	0.8-1.0	64-66%
Not Proficient	Designates the status of a student who has not demonstrated the basic knowledge of content and/or skills specified in the	F	0-0.7	63% or lower

Late Work & Retake Policy

We expect that all students will complete all of their work one hundred percent of the time. Teachers expect students to complete and turn in assignments, even if they are late (for partial credit).

- Late work, any assignment turned in or completed after the due date, will be accepted until the end of a unit.
- If an assignment is turned in after the due date, the grade earned on the assignment will be deducted by 1 grade distribution (examples: A- to B+ or C to C-).

If the summative assessment for a unit is due on the last day of the unit, but a student fails to turn the assessment in on time, the student has 2 weeks from the due date to turn the assignment in and, if applicable, complete the prerequisite work determined by the CLT and take the retake.

MAKE-UP WORK FOR ABSENCES

Students are fully responsible for completing any missed assignments (if an assignment is not on Schoology, the student will need to promptly contact the teacher in writing via email to inquire about the assignment and thus create a written record of this communication). Each day of excused absence affords one school day of makeup work opportunity. Students have a maximum of ten days (two weeks of school) to make up work missed during an excused period of absence. Makeup work for excused absences is graded and recorded in the grade book by teachers without penalty to students. For a prearranged absence, a student may request assignments in advance of the absence. Teachers will provide regular or alternative assignments in advance of the absence, *when feasible*.

RETAKE POLICY

All students have the opportunity to retake each assessment at least once. The rolling gradebook enables teachers the flexibility to make exceptions and offer additional retakes. The higher of the 2 scores will be reported.

Homework Policy

Homework should not exceed two hours per night across all disciplines at the high school level. FCPS high school teachers should plan for homework not to exceed 30 minutes per class block. When long-term projects require additional time, teachers should adjust daily homework assignments accordingly. Reading assignments are considered part of the homework load.

Classroom Expectations & PRIDE

Our school-wide expectations that we follow are represented in our PRIDE (Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence) grid. These attributes are demonstrated and modeled in all areas and aspects of the learning experience. In addition, Social and Emotional Learning will be embedded in the curriculum, with an emphasis on the following five core values: Self -Awareness, Self -Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, & Responsible Decision Making. In English 12, students will arrive to class on time, and treat each other with respect. See the MVHS P.R.I.D.E. grid [HERE](#).

Attendance & Behavior Policy

The FCPS attendance policy will be followed. Students who are present for any part of the day but are absent for English for any reason are responsible for that day's work or making alternate arrangements with the instructors. If an assignment is due, it must be completed and turned in on time.

Appropriate behavior is a vital component of student success. Students are expected to follow all classroom and school rules. Students are expected to come to class ready to participate with paper, pen or pencil, and any other specified materials. **Disruptions during instructional time will not be tolerated.** In the event that a student does not come to class prepared or chooses to disrupt the learning process of other students, that student will be subject to consequences as mandated by the teacher and/or administrator.

- **Verbal Warning:** The teacher will verbally alert the student to the classroom policy
- **2nd Verbal Warning with Parent Call or Email:** The teacher will contact parents.
- **School referral (sub school), Parent Call or Email:** The teacher will phone/email home to alert parents of the disruption and consequences incurred. The teacher will write a referral to the appropriate sub school administrator. *Depending on the gravity of the disruption, the teacher may skip steps.

Academic Honor Code

Any form of academic dishonesty or deception that unfairly, improperly, or illegally enhances a grade on an individual assignment or grade will not be permitted. Plagiarism is defined as the taking of another's work and passing it off as your own. If a student misrepresents their work, copies another person's work or ideas, or even attempts these acts, it is considered plagiarism and will be treated as such.

Cheating and plagiarizing are inappropriate behaviors and shall result in disciplinary action as outlined in Regulation 2601, Student Rights and Responsibilities Booklet. Students have the responsibility to:

- Avoid situations that might contribute to cheating or plagiarizing.
- Avoid unauthorized assistance.
- Use sources in the prescribed manner.
- Document borrowed materials by citing sources.
- Avoid plagiarism by:
 - using quotation marks for statements taken from others.
 - acknowledging information and ideas borrowed from any source.
 - consulting faculty members about a questionable situation.
 - Avoid "cutting" and "pasting" from computer text without proper attribution.

If a student violates the Academic Honesty Policy and engages in an act of cheating or plagiarizing, the parent, student, school counselor, and administrator must be informed. In addition, the student must accept responsibility for their actions and the accompanying consequences:

1st Offense

- Parent notification.
- Teacher-student conference and review of Academic Honesty Policy.
- Discipline referral is written for records. **
- Student will have the opportunity to redo the assignment/assessment or complete an alternate assignment/assessment. On summative assessments, the student will not receive a score below 50%.

- IB Students who plagiarize a formal IB Assessment will have the opportunity to redo the assessment for a grade in the FCPS gradebook, but will not submit the second try to IB for evaluation.

2nd Offense

- Parent notification.
- Administrator-IB Coordinator-Parent-Student conference and review of Academic Honesty Policy.
- Discipline referral and Administrative Detention.**
- 0% will be given on the assessment/assignment in violation or student will be given the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment/assessment. On summative assessments, the student will not receive a score below 50%.

3rd Offense

- Parent notification.
- Head of School-Parent-Student conference and review of Academic Honesty Policy.
- Discipline referral and suspension.
- 0% will be given on the assessment/assignment in violation.
- Student will be removed from any honor societies and/or class office for the remainder of the school year.
- School personnel must document the violations in any letters of recommendation or records.

There are **NO exceptions** to this rule. These rules also apply to cheating on homework, tests, quizzes, papers, and any other assignments.

Religious & Cultural Observances

Regulation 2234

Updated to state that teachers shall create **ungraded lessons or activities** on the observance day that:

1. reinforce previously acquired material
2. engage students in meaningful learning
3. are not the sole opportunity to engage in lessons or activities presented on that day

*On the class period / day following the observance day, teachers and school staff **may schedule new graded assignments or activities that have been announced at least one week prior to that day**. No other new graded assignments or activities should be due on those days.

Final Exam & Graduation

Decisions around final exams are still being determined. Updates will be made available to parents and students once policy decisions have been determined.

GRADUATION

Passing twelfth grade English is one of the many requirements a student must complete in order to graduate. Students must coordinate with their counselors to ensure all other FCPS/MVHS graduation requirements have been met. **Students will earn one (1) course credit at MVHS for passing this course. At the time of publication of this syllabus, verified credits are still being determined. Any testing updates will be shared with students and parents accordingly.**

Syllabus Contract

After reviewing the contents of this syllabus, please complete this page and return it to your teacher. By signing below, both parent/guardian and student are acknowledging that they have read this document and are aware of the course policies and procedures. Should you have any questions or concerns at any point during the school year, please feel free to contact me.

- We have read and understand the course syllabus.
- We understand that some of the texts/books we read this year may contain mature content and/or controversial material and that an alternative reading assignment will be provided if parents and/or students object to the selection of an assigned text.
 - Parent/Guardian initials: _____
- We are also aware of the procedures, policies and expectations for English 12.
- We understand that teachers use SIS as the source for parent contact information. We understand that it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that this information is up-to-date.
- We understand that Schoology will be used in this course.
- We understand that it is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of any information posted to the Learning Management System or sent via student email account (@fcpschools.net)

Student name (print): _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/Guardian name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Parent/Guardian home phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian cell phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian email: _____

Parent/Guardian email: _____

Do you require a translator for teacher to parent contact? _____

If yes, what language do you need? _____

Comments/Questions: