

English Syllabus (2021-2022)
Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School
Piscataway Campus
Instructor: Mrs. Mulligan
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome! This will be an exciting year in which you will be challenged to become better writers, readers, communicators and thinkers! Our focus will be on literature, informational texts, and media from around the world, with an emphasis on the skills needed to succeed in high school, college, careers and beyond.

Textbooks and Resources:

Pearson Literature, Commonlit.org, myPerspectives, newsela.org, & supplemental texts

II. LITERATURE UNIT THEMES

(Selections may change at the discretion of the teacher.)

Unit 1: Following the Crowd or Coming of Age

Unit 2: People and the Environment or Science Fiction and Social Commentary

Unit 3: The Novel - Animal Farm / Things Fall Apart / Tangerine

Unit 4: The Science of Branding: Why We Buy or The Fashion Industry: Past to Present

Unit 5: Parents and Children or War: Stories of Memory and Loss

Unit 6: The Art and Craft of Argumentative Writing

III. GRADING POLICY

- Tests, Essays, Large Projects - 35%
- Classwork - 25%
- Quizzes - 25%
- Homework - 15%

IV. SUPPLIES & MATERIALS

1. **Required:** Computer, Chromebook or cell phone with Internet access (to be used both at home and in the classroom). If you do not have an electronic device and/or Internet access, please notify your guidance counselor so that you can obtain what you need.

2. **Required:** A school email address (@mcvts.net). Any messages to me must be sent through your school email, not through your personal email. I will not open emails from students' personal email addresses.
3. **Required:** An account in our Google Classroom. All assignments posted in the Google Classroom must be submitted in the Google Classroom. Do not email assignments to me.
4. **Required:** Spiral notebook & folder OR a binder (at least 8"x10" in size). Although assignments will be posted online and submitted online, you will use your notebook to take notes and to practice the skills that are being taught during class sessions. Additionally, it is helpful to print out hard copies of handouts that are posted in the Google Classroom and store them in a binder so that you can refer to them when you don't have Internet access.
5. **Required:** Two (2) Sharpened pencils and two (2) dark blue or black pens.
6. **Optional:** A memory stick to save work when the Internet is down. (Not required but highly recommended.)

V. RULES OF CONDUCT:

As this is a vocational school, you are expected to practice using the same professional skills that are necessary to succeed in the workplace. You might not be friends with everyone, but you are expected to be civil and respectful to both teachers and students. Disruptive behavior or offensive comments will result in any or all of the following: an individual conference with me (your teacher); a phone call or email to parent/guardian; a discipline referral sent to the Assistant Principal; and other consequences outlined in the Student Handbook.

VI. CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

At the beginning of the period

1. Enter the room calmly and with a positive attitude.
2. Sit in your assigned seat before the bell rings so that you are not marked late.
3. Electronic devices are to be used for academic purposes only.
4. Begin your Do Now assignment by the time that the late bell rings.

During the lesson

1. Listen carefully to instructions the first time they are given so that you know what to do and don't have to interrupt the lesson by asking the teacher to repeat them.
2. Use good manners and polite language.
3. Do your own work. Students who copy other people's work or allow them to copy their work will receive a zero for the plagiarized assignment**

At the end of the period

1. Help straighten the rows and clean up trash (even if it isn't "yours").
2. Stay in your seat until the bell rings. DO NOT line up at the door. It is a health and safety hazard.

****PLAGIARISM POLICY:**

If you copy someone else's words or ideas without giving credit to the original author, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Copying and pasting information from a website
- Copying information word-for-word from a book
- Submitting a paper from an essay service or agency
- Submitting a paper written by another person (even though he/she allowed you to use it)
- Copying an assignment from another student

VII. GOOGLE CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. In the event that we meet online, log into the Google Meet on time. Otherwise you will be marked late (or absent if you don't log in at all).
2. Electronic devices are to be used for academic purposes only. No chatting, posting on social media, etc. during class meetings.
3. Participate: Online students will be called on during class. Be prepared to contribute.
4. Use Proper Writing Style: Whether you are working on an assignment or participating in an online chat, this is a requirement! Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are expected in all academic writing. Use MLA style as well.
5. Be courteous. A virtual classroom is a professional environment. You may not necessarily be friends with everyone, but you are expected to be polite to all.

VIII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Fire Drill Procedure: Quietly leave the classroom and follow the evacuation route posted in the classroom. Proceed to the designated area and stay together as a class.

Non-fire evacuation: Follow fire drill instructions, but walk down the hill of the field (and possibly even further away depending on the situation)

Code Red Lockdown Procedure (or any other lockdowns): Move to the back of the classroom and sit on the floor. Remain calm and do not talk. The door will be locked, and the lights will be turned off. Do not return to your seats until two administrators state their names and tell us that everything is "all clear" three times. Code Blue: Medical emergency. Stay in the classroom to keep the hallways clear. Shelter-in-Place: Community emergency. Stay in the building to keep safe.