

Mirror on America: Reading and Responding to Non-Fiction

Instructor: Jessica Smith Rm: 18 cell: 313-7737 jsmith@sau29.org

Course Description:

In this class you'll read high-interest and intellectually provocative essays on contemporary America, and in the process learn how to respond cognitively and critically to an idea, while accepting an immediate emotional response. You'll also develop your strategies for comprehending non-fiction and your own skills in writing essays. Please note that this class is writing intensive. (1 English credit).

Student Learning Expectations:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate comprehension of assigned reading through both written and oral assessment.
2. structure his/her writing implementing skills taught
3. work collaboratively with others
4. write critically for a variety of purposes

Tentative Units of Study:

- Audience, Purpose, and Tone
- Rhetorical Strategies:
 - Analysis, argument, cause and effect, comparison contrast, definition, description, evaluation, and narration.

Materials:

• Students will need to bring the following to class each day: A three-inch three-ring binder with dividers and college rule paper; completed homework, a writing utensil (pencil and black pen), *Mirror on America* text, and the current project or essay.

• I prefer all work to be typed or written double-spaced in black pen.

• An email address will be required.

- Please purchase or obtain a marbled, composition notebook
- Access to a computer and the Internet will also be helpful.

Grading:

SUPERIOR	ABOVE	AVERAGE	BELOW	FAILING
98-100 = A+	89-91 = B+	80-82 = C+	71-73 = D+	D-64 = F
95-97 = A	86-88 = B	77-79 = C	68-70 = D	D-64 = F
92-94 = A-	83-85 = B-	74-76 = C-	65-67 = D-	D-64 = F

Attendance, Class Participation, Debates & Discussions	(20%)
Formal & Informal Writing, Essays	(30%)
Tests & Quizzes	(20%)
Projects & Final Essays	(30%)

Classroom Rules:

RESPECT: yourself, each other, me, supplies, KHS, Community Education, etc.

1. Be on time, prepared, & engaged
2. Hand in work on time (or make other arrangements before work is due)

Academic Honesty:

Cheating, plagiarism, violation of test conditions, complicity in dishonest behavior, or other falsification of academic work will result in a failing grade for the assignment. All resources that are used need to be adequately cited and documented in MLA format. Depending on the severity of the infraction, other actions may be taken. To simplify--if you borrow words or ideas from anyone or anything, give credit where credit is due.

Makeup Policy:

For projects, papers, and any other assignment given in advance: students are expected to hand in work on the day it is due regardless of absences. Work may be dropped off, submitted via e-mail, or mailed to K.H.S. I do not accept late work unless arrangements have been made in advance.