**Modern Literature and**

**Expository Composition**

**Course Description and**

**Class Guidelines**

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ArTES is rich in opportunities for all of our students. Students will engage in authentic learning in classes that are both interactive and challenging. ArTES teachers develop meaningful curriculum and instruction that ignites students’ curiosity, while preparing them for life beyond high school. ArTES students will push themselves intellectually in an environment where they are safe to take academic and artistic risks. Ultimately, ArTES students will be prepared to express themselves as citizens in our democracy, as professionals, and as innovative and analytical thinkers.

**Department Philosophy –**

The members of the ArTES Magnet English Language Arts Department believe that it is essential for students to develop literacy skills which will prepare them for college and career success, foster intellectual curiosity, and establish an appreciation for the arts.

**Course Philosophy –**

The purpose of Modern Literature and Expository Composition is to provide students with a general exposure to critical and engaging fiction and nonfiction texts, hone the skills they learned in their previous Language Arts classes, and prepare them for the rigors of college level writing. Students learn best when the material they are given is both purposeful and relevant. Students should be challenged to think critically and deeply about a subject, while also being given the opportunity to find their voice to impart what they’ve learned with others. My goals as a teacher are to foster critical thinking and reading skills and assist students in developing a personal voice in their writing. The most effective methods for accomplishing these goals include: group discussion and analysis that foster independence and equity of voice, arts integration, and various writing tasks that improve upon their previous skills. The most important aspects of my teaching are my passion for the subject, my investment in my students, and the vision and mission of ArTES.

**Course Description –**

Modern Literature and Expository Composition is intended to expand student understanding of literature that is both culturally and historically diverse. This class emphasizes communication skills as well as critical thinking skills. Through various language arts activities, students will be able to interpret texts for meaningful connections. These activities will allow students the opportunity to develop listening, thinking, speaking, and writing skills. Students will ultimately have a means of creating an individual voice and identity in today’s world.

The goals of this course are, but not limited to, the following activities:

* Respond personally to literature discussed in class. This includes poetry, novels, drama, and other materials drawn from multicultural sources
* Develop analytical thinking skills so that one can question and inquire about a variety of subjects
* Learn and practice both formal and informal public speaking skills
* Learn and implement effective writing processes. This includes thesis development, prewriting, drafting, proof writing, and editing
* Develop efficient and useful computer and multimedia knowledge
* Learn to understand and apply intercurricular connections between subject areas

**Interdisciplinary Learning –**

Students will be given at least one opportunity each semester to engage in cross-disciplinary learning.

**Content / Professional Standards –**

ArTES curriculum and instruction are aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) to ensure that students graduate from ArTES with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college, career, and life. These standards help students build the strong foundations needed to apply their learning both inside and outside the classroom. One of the key skills in the Common Core is writing. Students can expect to write in EVERY ArTES class.

**Formative Assessments –**

A variety of assessments are used to monitor student learning and understanding. These are, but not limited to the following:

* dialectical journals
* whole group and small group discussion
* short timed response paragraphs
* reading quizzes
* text-based questions

**Summative Assessments –**

Summative assessments will largely include interdisciplinary essays and anchor projects at the close of each unit.

**Student Portfolios –**

Electronic portfolios will help you keep track of your progress and show your level of mastery in all classes. At ArTES, you are responsible for representing yourself as a Student, Citizen, and an Artist; your portfolio will provide a place to demonstrate your accomplishments in all three areas.

**Self-Evaluation and Goal Setting:**

ArTES values all students as unique members of our learning community and seeks to grade students fairly and appropriately. As teachers at ArTES we recognize that educational equity in not defined as providing all students with identical support. It is defined as providing all of our students with the support they need to fully participate in a transformative education. To that end, all students with disabilities will be included as fully as possible in the general education curriculum. Teachers will implement the accommodations and/or modifications as delineated in each student’s IEP. Grading policies, rubrics and scoring scales may also be adjusted to serve the unique need of the individual student.

**Standards-Based Grading –**

Student grades are based upon mastery of the CCSS and content-specific standards. Teachers establish student learning goals and students are assessed on their level of skill and knowledge. As a student, you will focus on your progress, not on the number of points you have in a course.

**A-G Completion –**

All students must pass all A-G courses with a grade of “C” or better to receive an LAUSD high school diploma.

**Late Work Policy –**

Standards Based Grading provides multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of the standards. Therefore, students are expected to submit all assignments on time. Late work will not be assessed. If the student has extenuating circumstances which prevent meeting a deadline, the student must communicate with their teacher as soon as possible to discuss possible solutions.

For every excused absence, students have one additional school day to submit their assignments.

**School-Wide Attendance and Tardy Policy –**

ArTES Attendance Policy ArTES strives to support all students in maintaining regular attendance and punctuality. To that end students are expected to maintain an attendance rate of 97%, which means having no more than 5 absences during the school year. Please be sure to clear all absences with the main office. Students who are tardy will be locked out of class and must get a pass before reentering. After three tardies, ArTES adheres to the CCLA wide tardy policy, which includes consequences including a phone call home, parent conference, Saturday detention, and campus beautification.

**School-Wide Electronics Policy** –

At ArTES, we strive to eliminate any distractions that might deter student success. We adhere to the LAUSD’s policy concerning cell phone use in schools, which states that all phones shall remain off and not visible during school hours. If a cell phone is observed by staff during school hours it may be confiscated.

**Progressive Discipline –**

ArTES believes in supporting positive behavior for all students. Teachers strive to resolve behavioral concerns in the classroom, so that instruction will not be negatively impacted. In response to student behavior that disrupts learning in the classroom (misuse of electronics, disruptive behavior, breaking classrooms rules, etc.) consequences may include redirection, parent contact, temporary removal from the environment, or detention. More serious infractions will be referred to the ArTES administration or CCLA dean.

**Academic Probation –**

Students who are failing one or more classes will be placed on academic probation and will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities until their grades improve. Students are expected to make arrangements with teachers to collect missing assignments, develop a plan for academic improvement, and attend tutoring.

**Unit Calendar –**

Please be advised that this calendar is *approximate* and *flexible*