

ENGLISH 12– LESSONS IN CONTEXT

COURSE OUTLINE AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Mr. D McGuire (B114)

Welcome to English 12, a course in which we will explore the importance of context when studying and analyzing literature. The following content areas and skills will be the focus of this year...

- Essay writing, non-fiction prose, The Gladwell Project
- Novel Study The Kite Runner
- Lit Circle novel studies
- Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice"
- Short Stories, and Provincial Prep
- Poetry... I hate teaching poetry... so I will intersperse it throughout the year, along with one or two film studies.

SUPPLIES: You are in Grade 12. I should not have to remind you to come to class prepared. Nor should I have to give you a list of materials you will need to bring. The only thing I ask is that you bring pens that have dark blue or black ink. **Please, no funky colours .**

PREPAREDNESS: You are expected to come to class with ALL the necessary supplies, textbooks, and homework assignments. I remain stunned at how often senior students forget the basics.

ATTENDANCE: It is important that students attend every class. If an absence cannot be avoided, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed, and to complete any assignment. A signed note from a parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence must be given to the teacher when you return. **If you are absent for a test, you will be required to write the test on the day you return.**

Please be on time. If you arrive late to a job, you will be fired. Good habits start here. And I will not be holding any hands. **If you do not attend, you will not succeed.**

HOMEWORK: You are expected to submit all assignments on time. Homework assignments will be checked at the beginning of class; major assignments must be submitted before you leave class on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized in accordance with English Department guidelines.

EXTRA HELP: If you are having difficulty with any concepts or assignments, or if you need extra help, please ask me. I'm here to help.

MARKS: Your mark will be collected from a variety of sources, including tests, quizzes, projects, homework, group work, participation, and writing. Please remember that 40% of your overall mark will come from writing. And that 40% of your final mark is taken from the final exam. D'oh.

LETTER GRADES / PERCENTAGE POINT CUTOFFS:

A	86–100%
B	73–85%
C+	67–72%
C	60–66%
C–	50–59%
I	below 50% ☹

THE SECRET– There is an old adage that applies to the job of golf caddy; caddies are told to “Show Up, Keep Up, and Shut Up!”. The secret to success in Grade 12 is to “show up (to class), keep up (with the work), and speak up. Get involved, share your ideas. Remember, in English class, there are no wrong answers, just answers that lack support from the text.

PARENTS:

If your parental units have any questions about this course, or any concern about your progress, please have them contact me via e-mail at dmcguire@vsb.bc.ca, or phone the school at 604-713-8950. Mention that I answer e-mails promptly, but that I am less prompt when it comes to phone calls.