

Class Policies

Contemporary Literature

Contemporary Literature is designed for those students who enjoy reading and take pride in their writing. This one-semester elective is **reading and writing intensive** and includes a **research paper**. As such, students must take ownership of their education. Additionally, **students are required** to purchase their own copy of the following novel: *Ella Minnow Pea*, by Mark Dunn (ISBN: 978- 0385722438). Be sure to purchase your copy within the first two weeks of the semester, so that you are prepared.

Students are required to read **three full novels** as a class, to write **one major essay**, and to deliver, as a small group, **one thirty-minute lecture** based on a **fourth novel** to be selected by the student for his or her individual research project (a list of approved novels will be provided later). Such a pace demands students keep up with their reading (most of which is completed outside of class) and arrive each day prepared to discuss their insights. Furthermore, as this course is intended for the college-bound student, many of the themes covered will be **adult in nature**; students are expected to engage in such discussions maturely. Those who feel they cannot fulfill the above criteria may wish to enroll in a different course. Most importantly, please make me aware (privately of course) of any necessary accommodations—academically, physically, financially, etc. I want everyone in the class to feel comfortable, supported, and prepared.

Technology is a key component of this course and students should arrive each day with their school laptop. There are three essential platforms of which students must be aware:

1. **Website:** The informational hub: a weekly agenda, syllabus, lectures, exemplars, and other supplemental materials are continually available and updated here. Simply go to www.mcevilly.squarespace.com or click the link in Schoology or locate me on the high school site.
2. **PowerSchool:** As the official grade of record, all assignments and grades will be posted here.
* *No grades will be entered through Schoology*
3. **Email:** The best way to reach me outside of class is through district email: dmcevilly@ecusd7.org.
* *Do not contact me through Schoology*

Remember: Students are the ones who have been present for lectures and discussions; they have read the material and completed the work. I encourage all students to take ownership of their academics and to advocate for themselves. Ask questions in class, drop by after school, email me. Parents are certainly welcome to contact me, but at this stage in a student's education, a parent should not be more engaged than the student. After all, only the student has context for their questions or concerns.

With this in mind, a word to students on etiquette: I'm more than happy to answer questions—I *want you to ask questions, I want you to be curious*. But remember, most teachers have anywhere from 130-150 students, two or three different courses, and five or six sections to teach each day. Try to craft a coherent, specific, reasonable, and polite inquiry. Your words are a reflection of yourself—your sincerity, your effort, and your consideration. The first email (A) below was written by a seventeen-year-old. The second (B) was written by a nine-year-old. Guess which student is more likely to accomplish their goal?

A.

hey

i have zero i turned it iN i don't know if u didn't get it?

B.

Mr. Clark,

I tried to do the online math test but it wouldn't let me submit. So, I exited the test, but I took pictures of my answers so I didn't lose them. Please tell me what to do now. Have a nice day!

Becca

Quiz: Class Policies
Contemporary Literature

Name: _____

Instructions: Having reviewed the syllabus and course policies in class, show me how much you've retained. This quiz is "open book"—feel free to look over the syllabus, the website, ask a classmate... or even ask me. This is only to ensure you are prepared to listen, engage, and advocate in the most successful way this year. When finished, sign at the bottom. Then take it home to have a parent/guardian read and sign as well. Return this to me the next day, properly filled out and signed, and you will be given extra credit to start the year.

1. Are phones allowed in class? _____

2. True or False
___ This course is reading intensive.
___ Most of the reading will be done at home.

3. True or False
___ A prearranged school event (e.g., field trip, athletics, theatre, etc.) is an excuse for late work.
___ A prearranged absence (e.g., vacation, doctor, dentist, etc.) is an excuse for late work.

4. Late work will earn no more than _____ % credit.

5. What are the three essential platforms of which students must be aware?
_____, _____, and _____

6. Where can you find our agenda, general info, due dates, and supplementary materials? _____

7. Where can you find previous lectures? _____

8. What platform contains the official grades of record? _____

9. What is the best way to contact me outside of class? _____

10. If you're confused or have questions, WHO is the BEST person to contact me? _____

I have read the syllabus, as well as the class policies (both of which can be found on the website), and I understand the content, pace, and academic obligations of this course.

(Student Name) (Student Signature)

(Parent/Guardian Name) (Parent/Guardian Signature)