

## Class Policies

### *Critical Thinking in Science Fiction*

Critical Thinking in Science Fiction is a one-semester college-prep elective designed to introduce students to one of the most popular genres of fiction. Students will come to understand the fundamental characteristics of science fiction and how the genre—from *Frankenstein* to *The Matrix*—has evolved over time, serving as both a bellwether and as an allegory for our present circumstances.

**This course is reading intensive.** Various short stories, three full novels, and several films comprise the material on which classroom discussions will be founded. Additionally, **students are required** to purchase their own copy of the following novel: *Never Let Me Go*, by Kazuo Ishiguro (ISBN: 978-1400078776). Be sure to purchase your copy within the first two weeks of the semester, so that you are prepared. **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](http://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](mailto: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

**Note:** To support the reading material and to illustrate visually what students have read and learned regarding the essential elements of science fiction, a film or film clip will occasionally be shown. Some of these films may be rated R.

**Quiz: Class Policies**  
*Critical Thinking in Science Fiction*

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, due dates, and other 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)