

9th Grade Humanities
Ms. Joy Parnakian, B.S.
2014-2015

“To read is to fly: it is to soar to a point of vantage which gives a view over wide terrains of history, human variety, ideas, shared experience and the fruits of many inquiries.”

-A C Grayling, Financial Times

Goals

To differentiate a variety of genres in literature, build vocabulary and writing skills, and prepare students for a successful high school career. Students will be developing positive organizational and reading skills that will be necessary throughout high school and beyond.

Course Description

The goal for 9th grade Humanities is to introduce and prepare students for the rigors of high school. Students will be analytically studying literature through reading world literature (short stories, fiction, nonfiction, Shakespeare, essays, poetry, and the novel) and discussing themes, elements of literature and points of view. Students will also be making connections from the literature to their lives and the world around them. Students will be expected to master language and reading objectives for the Arizona AIMS standardized test. In particular, students will demonstrate an understanding of language terms, (capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage and spelling) in the writing they complete for this class. Students will write in a variety of modes, such as descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive for different purposes and audiences. In addition, it is expected that students are aware of current events in the news and use an academic vocabulary while in the classroom and in all assignments. We will also be developing their public speaking and presentation skills.

Standards:

Common Core Standards English Language Arts

All Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening Common Core Standards will be covered by the end of Semester 2.

Prerequisite:

None

Materials Needed:

- 1 composition book per semester
- 1 2” 3-ring binder
- 6 tab dividers
- 1 single-subject spiral notebook per semester
- Pens, pencils, and eraser
- Loose notebook paper
- Pouch to hold writing utensils
- Independent Reading Book
- Library card with no fines
- Additional texts to be determined by teacher based on time and student interest.
- Computer and Internet access
- School appropriate email address
- Printer with ink
- Online storage for documents

Methods and Procedures

This course is intended to prepare students for the rigors of high school. Students will be required to develop organizational skills and refine classroom behavior. In order to make the necessary connections and gain understanding, every student is expected to participate in small group and whole class discussions. If given a preparation assignment for these, every student is expected to be prepared and participate. Each student will be enhancing their writing skills through journaling/jumpstarts, vocabulary building assignments, grammar instruction, creative writing assignments, and engaging in writing conferences with the teacher. The students will enhance their reading skills through exposure to a variety of types of texts, reading aloud during class, and following along with audio recordings. Students will also be given graphic organizers and supplemental handouts to help better understand concepts/lessons. For each unit covered, there will be at least one major assignment (essay, presentation, debate, etc.), one quiz and one test. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, in size 12 font.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

The following is a list of rules that must be followed in the classroom. The teacher will keep track of adherence to the class rules. Participation is graded in part on adherence to these rules:

1. Follow all directions.
2. Be on time and in your seat when class begins.
3. Be prepared for class and have all required materials with you.
4. Do not eat or drink (except water) in class. No gum chewing in class.
5. Stay in your seat during class unless you have permission to be out of your seat.
6. Raise your hand to speak your mind or ask questions. Do not call out.
7. Be respectful of those around you. They have a right to learn without disruptions.
8. Be positive and encouraging to your classmates. No put downs of any kind are tolerated.

Leaving the Classroom

Students may not leave the classroom during the first and last 10 minutes of the period. Students will be given three passes per quarter to use at their discretion if they need to use the restroom, go to the office, or take care of an unforeseen emergency. The use of the coupon will allow them three extra opportunities per quarter to leave class with a pass. After using those three opportunities, no more will be given (unless there is a medical reason with a doctor's note). However, if the coupons are not used, they will convert into extra credit points at the end of the quarter.

Electronics/Cell Phones

All cell phones, MP3 players, video games or other electronic devices must be turned OFF and put out of sight into a bag or backpack. Students may check messages during lunch or between classes, but **NOT DURING CLASS**. In the case of an emergency (accident, illness, death, etc.), parents should call the school directly or come to the school to pick up their child. **If a student uses a cell phone or other electronic device in class, I will take it away, give it to administration, and detention will be given. If a cell phone is taken away more than once, a student may be banned from bringing their cell phone to school. (See Metro's Cell Phone Policy)**

Homework and Exam Expectations

In general, as 9th graders, students are being asked to take more responsibility for their own learning and to be more accountable for their active participation in their education. It will be imperative for you to take responsibility for your own studying and preparation for class and exams. Independent preparation, in addition to schoolwork will be necessary for success. All students are required to use, have, and maintain their Metro Planner to help with organization and preparedness.

Homework is expected to be completed on time, printed, and turned in on the due date.

If a student has an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher or a peer for missed notes and/or assignments and to take tests. The student will have one day upon returning to

Each semester grade is calculated as follows: The first quarter is worth 40%, the second quarter is worth 40%, and the final exam is worth 20%. There are two semesters in the school year. For example, if a student earns 90% the first quarter, 80% for the second quarter, and then receives 95% on the final exam, the semester grade is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Quarter One} \quad \text{Quarter Two} \quad \text{Final Exam} \\ (90\% \times 0.4) + (80\% \times 0.4) + (95\% \times 0.2) = 87\% \text{ for semester one} \end{array}$$

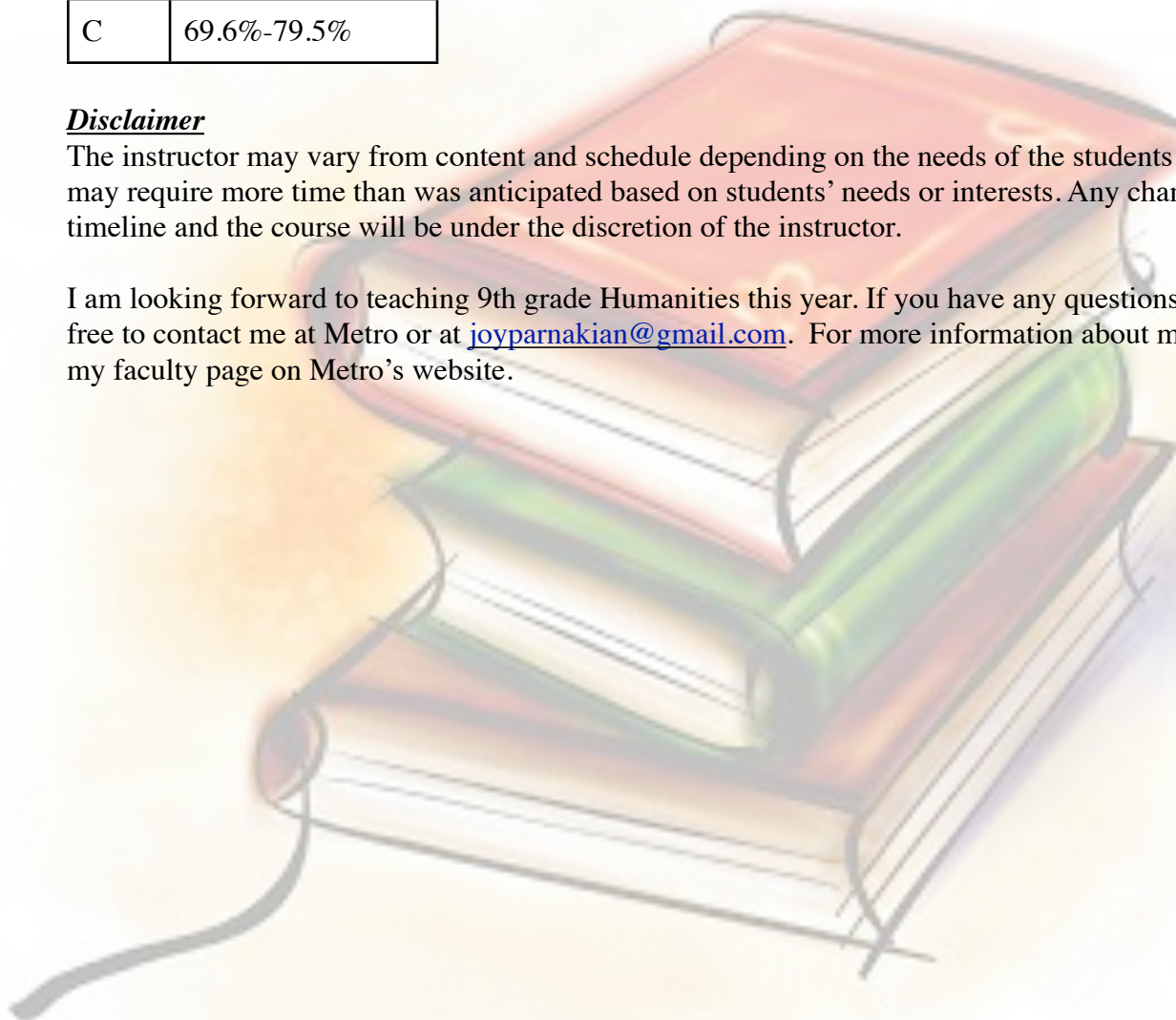
The percentage scores will convert to letter grades for transcript reporting. Please see the chart below for how percentages correspond to letters.

A	89.6%-100%	D	59.6%-69.5%
B	79.6%-89.5%	F	59.5% and below
C	69.6%-79.5%		

Disclaimer

The instructor may vary from content and schedule depending on the needs of the students. Some topics may require more time than was anticipated based on students' needs or interests. Any changes to the timeline and the course will be under the discretion of the instructor.

I am looking forward to teaching 9th grade Humanities this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Metro or at joyparnakian@gmail.com. For more information about me, please visit my faculty page on Metro's website.



Syllabus & Policy Contract Agreement

Access syllabus through Ms. Parnakian's Metro Webpage

**Please review this syllabus with your Parent/Guardian.
You must return this contract to Ms. Parnakian by _____**

I have read the course syllabus and I understand my responsibilities. I have also read and agree to follow Metro's Universal Policies. I understand that I must have all required materials for my class by _____ . I understand that I will have a quiz over the syllabus on _____ .

Student name (Printed)

Student signature

I have read the course syllabus and I understand my child's responsibilities. I have also read and agree to follow Metro's Universal Policies

Parent/Guardian name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian signature

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____