

***Pebblebrook High School 2.0: Project-based; Problem Solved!***

**Department:  English        Spring Semester 2015**

**COURSE TITLE: ESL Writer’s Workshop INSTRUCTOR:** Brielle Folio

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**CLASSROOM BLOG**: foliophs.weebly.com **SCHOOL WEBSITE:**<http://www.cobbk12.org/Pebblebrook/>

**PHS SCHOOL VISION:** *Empowering Students to Become Productive Members of a Global Community*

**PHS SCHOOL MISSION:** *Modeling and Developing Intellectual, Physical and Emotional Behaviors that Lead to Success for All*

**KEY ACTIONS:**

* *Increase the Graduation Rate*
* *Increase rigor and student engagement (Project-based learning environment)*
* *Increase community and parental involvement*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In World Literature, we will explore the many cultures, countries, voices, events, and issues of the modern world through the written word. We emphasize an understanding of the world today by how history has shaped it; we will focus on modern literature and current events, but weave in informational texts, classic and ancient texts, art, and film. We will also write, learn how to research, analyze, and synthesize information, solve problems, improve our communication skills, enhance our digital footprints through the use of technology, and consider our purpose as readers, writers, and citizens of the world.

**KEY STANDARDS:**

There are four major standards in Writer’s Workshop: Reading, Writing, Language, and Speaking/Listening. Within these categories, there are certain standards we will predominantly focus on this semester; these exemplify skills we expect our students to master. These include but are not limited to the following:

Reading: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. Being able to be a strong reader and cite text evidence will make you a stronger writer.

Writing: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence; write other various types of both fiction and non-fiction works including memoirs, personal narratives, expository writing, and creative fiction.

Language: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking

Speaking/Listening: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions(one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

**GRADING POLICY:**

Reading……………………25%

Writing…………………….25%

Speaking and Listening……15%

Language……………..……10%

Common Assessment…….... 5%

Final Assessment………..…20%

**GRADING SCALE:**

A - 100-90%

B - 89-80

C - 79-74%

D – 70-73%

F - 69-Below

**SYNERGY ACCESS TO GRADES:**

It is strongly encouraged that you keep your Synergy login information in a safe place and that you have access to the information when needed. Parents should contact the Main Office (770.819.2521) or Mr. John Chandler at ext. 099 in order to obtain their synergy password and access information.

*Please note that when you are viewing grades in Synergy that a blank grade column for your child has no effect on their grade. If the space is blank, then your student may not have turned in that assignment due to absence or the teacher may not have entered grades for that assignment at that time. An “X” means that the student is exempt from an assignment at the discretion of the teacher.*

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The following are our thematic units for this course:

Unit 1: Personal narrative and Memoir

Unit 2: Persuasive and Argumentative writing (including research-based writing)

Unit 3: Expository and technical writing

Unit 4: Creative writing

Each unit (and each day) will contain a variety of assessments and activities in each of the four standards. Students will have the opportunity to show their learning in a number of ways, as well as to choose modes that work best for them on certain assignments.

We will also be completing a Blog Project this semester. Students will create and maintain personal blogs that showcase learning and writing in World Literature. Blogs will be hosted through weebly.com, and students will be able to customize them in many ways. For the purpose of writing portfolios, students will be required to organize the blogs in a specific manner and adhere to the guidelines laid out for them throughout the semester. This digital artifact of writing, reading, language, speaking, and listening skills will also help them utilize and improve upon 21st century skills related to technology and communication.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**:

1-inch, 3-ring binder

Plenty of notebook paper

Two-pocket folder

Pens, a pencil, and a highlighter

**DONATION REQUEST:**

Kleenex

Hand sanitizer

Band-Aids

Printer Paper

Markers

Colored Pencils

Construction Paper

Notebook Paper

Pens

**CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

This class is a place of business and learning, and as such, it is expected that all students behave in a manner consistent with those goals. Students are required to treat the teacher(s), peers, and classroom with respect at all times. All students are required to comply with all school rules, as well as class rules outlined by the teacher. World Literature students are young adults, and for no reason should be unable to comply with reasonable expectations. **Students are required to follow directions at all times and correct behavior immediately if there is an issue. Consequences for failure to comply with these expectations may include a warning, student/teacher conference, detention, parent contact, and/or referral to administration.**

**PARTICIPATION:**

Class participation is an important component of the curriculum. Much can be learned from the exchange of ideas that occurs during class discussions. Frequent absences will SERIOUSLY jeopardize your success in this class. A variety of grades in the Speaking/Listening category will be based on the degree of student involvement in the learning activities, including attention to and participation in exercises, class discussion, and group projects.

**ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICY:**

A student who is present and actively participates is most likely to be successful; however, if a student is absent, he/she has the number of days absent plus one day to make up assigned work. If the student does not make up the work, azero will be given for the missed work. Students needing assistance with make-up work should sign up for a tutoring time before or after school.

If a student has an unexcused absence, all work will be assigned a zero in Synergy unless the absence becomes excused. Remember that IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO PICK UP AND TO MAKE UP ANY MISSED WORK! See me before or after class to collect any handouts/ specific late work. Please check the blog to view more details about the day’s work.

ABSENCES WILL NOT be an excuse for long-term projects which have already been assigned!

Any student who misses class for OSS or ISS must turn in his/her work the day he/she returns to class. Students in OSS must have their work picked up in the main office.

**LATE WORK POLICY:**

Late work may not be eligible to earn full credit. All major assignments/projects will be penalized 10% each day late.

**TARDY POLICY:**

To avoid being counted tardy, ***students must be seated and ready for class when the bell rings***.  School policy states that students may receive Saturday School, In-School Suspension, and Out-of-School Suspension for repeated tardies.

**EXTRA HELP:**

Morning Session: Tuesday and Thursday, 7:45-8:10 am (or by appointment as needed)

Afternoon Session: by appointment as needed

**CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES***:*

As per the school’s policy, cell phones are not to be used during class time unless directed by the teacher for instructional purposes. Students will receive a discipline referral after one warning to put away any electronic device (unless the device is being used for instruction). Students are allowed to bring certain technologies to class (iPad, laptop, Kindle, etc.), but it should **NOT** interfere with the teaching or other’s learning.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

*Cheating is considered a serious matter.  Any student who is involved in cheating/plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the material, an unsatisfactory in conduct, and his/her parents will be notified.*

For this course, cheating is defined as, but is not limited to, the following acts:

* Copying anyone's answers to questions, exercises, study guides, class work or homework assignments
* Taking any information verbatim from any source, including the Internet, without giving proper credit to the author, or rearranging the order of words and/or changing some words as written by the author and claiming the work as his or her own, i.e., plagiarism.
* Looking onto another student's paper during a test or quiz.
* Having available any study notes or other test aids during a test or quiz without the teacher's permission.
* Collaborating on assignments when independent work is expected.

\*Per the English department policy, an additional consequence of cheating is exclusion from any extra credit opportunities.

**CLASSROOM BLOG:**

Throughout the year, students are expected to use the classroom blog **daily**. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the blog and come prepared to the next class. Handouts and assignments will be posted daily to the blog.

**My blog: foliophs.weebly.com**

**FINAL THOUGHTS:**

Writing is a subject that I am passionate about and personally enjoy. In order to effectively communicate the thoughts you keep locked in your mind, writing and speaking well is essential. When sharing writing, students can often feel vulnerable or overly-personal. For this reason, this classroom will be a no-negativity zone. Be supportive of your fellow classmates and their work, and they will return the favor. We believe that in an ideal classroom, the teacher should learn with the students, and we value a respectful and open-minded learning environment.

**Since this class is called “Writer’s Workshop”, obviously the primary focus will be on writing. This will include everything from correct grammar and formatting, brainstorming and quick-write activities, and both shorter and longer essays/written pieces. Please be prepared to share your ideas with us both verbally and in the written word, and get ready for a great semester!**

* **Ms. Folio ☺**

Parent and student syllabus contract

My student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has gone over this syllabus with me. By signing below, I acknowledge that both of us understand the rules, requirements, and expectations of this course. If you have any further questions or concerns about the class, please use the contact information found on the front of the syllabus.

Parent Signature:­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Return this signed sheet to Ms. Folio; keep the rest of this syllabus for reference.**