



Deer Valley Unified School District

Mrs. Arielle Larance
English Language Arts 7-8
Room: C117

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Course Description: English Language Arts 7-8 critically examines both contemporary fiction and non-fiction as well as selections from classic British Literature. This course is designed to enhance and refine students' writing skills and students will learn how to write clearly and effectively for a variety of purposes. Throughout the course, students will be provided with a myriad of opportunities to understand, evaluate, and clearly communicate ideas through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course offers expanded opportunities to use 21st century skills to enhance the learning experience and expand course themes. English Language Arts 7-8 is aligned with the Arizona College and Career Ready standards and supports the school wide efforts in increasing student achievement.

Course Objectives: By the time the student completes this course of study, the student will know or be able to:

- Determine and analyze the development of two or more central ideas over the course of a text to provide a complex analysis or summary
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings, while analyzing the impact of specific choices on meaning and tone
- Delineate and evaluate the rhetorical effectiveness of the authors' reasoning, premises, purpose in a variety of texts
- Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to address a question or solve a problem
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supply the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence and between claim(s) and counterclaims.

Novels:

- *Beowulf* translated by Burton Raffel
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by Gawain Poet
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *1984* by George Orwell

*Note: If there is a novel that you prefer your child not read, please indicate this on the novel communication form AND email the teacher, so that an alternate unit can be provided.

Classroom Rules and Consequences:

1. Be respectful to everyone and everything!
2. Enjoy food and drinks in designated areas such as the cafeteria.
3. Be prepared for class everyday with the materials outlined on this syllabus.
4. Be in your assigned seat and begin your bell work before the bell rings.
5. Mature behavior will be displayed in and around the classroom.

Grading:

- Grades are based on a percentage of all possible points: (100%-90%=A, 89%-80%=B, 79%-70%=C, 69%-60%=D, 59% and lower=F).
- Grades are cumulative for the semester. The first and second semester grades will be weighted as follows: 80% Assessment, 20% Classwork
- No extra credit will be accepted.

Report Cards:

In an effort to conserve resources and harness the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool) district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student's report card, please contact the front office at 623-376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

Power School Online Access:

Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your Power School access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday – Friday 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

Academic Assistance/Office Hours:

In addition to the Academic Prep times built into our schedule each week, additional assistance/tutoring is provided on a weekly basis both by MRHS and individually by instructors. These office hours will be posted in my classroom, website, and/or Canvas at the start of each week. I will demonstrate to the students how to find my availability each week.

Make-up Policy:

Absences- After an absence, a student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/tests, regardless of the number of days absent. If many days were missed, please schedule an appointment with me to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work. Make-up work for extended absences (over 3 days) may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.

Late Assignments- In order for **Late Work** to be accepted, students must meet the following parameters:

- Assignment is not due within the class period
- Assignment is not a timed activity (such as a Quick-Write Essay)
- Assignment is not a Long-Term assignment (over multiple weeks)
- Assignment is turned in by the end of the instructional unit.

Classwork- Some assignments will be due at the end of class. If an assignment is due at the end of class, it cannot be submitted after the end of the class period for any points. This includes long-term projects and assignments that are completed over multiple class periods. If a student needs an extension on an assignment, they must request extra time from the teacher either in-person or through a Canvas Inbox message prior to the end of class that day. Students must demonstrate adequate progress towards the completion of the assignment by either showing the teacher their progress in-person, or by attaching their current progress to the Inbox message. Extensions will be given at the teacher's discretion. If a student is absent on an in-class work day, they will have one school day to make up the assignment.

Reassessment:

If it is determined that reassessment is necessary, the student will have the opportunity to complete another assessment of the same learning targets. The assessment to be retaken may be in the same format or a different format and will be at the same difficulty level. The higher of the two scores will be entered in the gradebook.

To earn a retake opportunity, a student must complete all of the following:

- o The student must initiate contact with the teacher within 5 school days of the assessment score being posted.
- o The student must communicate with the teacher to create a reassessment plan.
- o The reassessment plan may include all formative coursework related to the content/skill assessed

AI Statement:

In Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, we may incorporate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for students. However, it is important to approach this technology with caution and adhere to responsible data privacy practices.

DVUSD has determined that the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, is prohibited unless clearly specified by your teacher. Specific guidelines will be provided in the assignment details. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is an LLM or if it is permitted on a specific assignment, please contact your teacher before submitting your work.

Daily Device Use (iPads):

Students should come to school with their iPads charged and ready to use in each class every day. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model, beginning with a phone call home and progressing to office referrals for repeated or more serious offenses. See the Student Rights and Responsibilities consequence chart in the handbook for more specific descriptions of infractions and consequences.

Recommended Supplies for this Course:

1. Blue or black pens, pencils, and highlighters
2. Composition Book or Spiral Notebook for taking notes and/or completing assignments that are not on Canvas.
3. Independent reading book of choice.