Deer Valley Unified School District

Mrs. Deborah Johnson **623-376-3208**
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English Language Arts 5-6 **Room C208**

Course Description

Course Description: This course is both a chronological and thematic approach to American Literature. By incorporating both perspectives, students will not only develop an understanding of our "American Journey," but also explore relevant, contemporary thematic links. 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 enhance course themes. Practical exercises in grammar and vocabulary are also integrated to enhance students' English language arts skills. English Language Arts 5-6 is aligned with the Arizona English Language Arts 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.

Major Units Fall Semester: Strong Relationships, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, Stress Unit, Sleep Unit, Individual Investigation, Choice Reading

Major Units Spring Semester: ACT Writing*, The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Individual Endeavor*, A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, Choice Reading

*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.

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 and 20% coursework.
- No extra credit will be accepted.

Report Cards

The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department, 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. (623) 445-5000.

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 Power School 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 Administration Office Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. You may check student progress regularly on the Power School site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest login 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. My office hours are by appointment only.

Make Up Work Policy: Students will have until the end of the unit to submit assignments. No further extensions will be provided.

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 Policy
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 Policy
In-class assignments may be due by the end of the class period. Class time will be provided. 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. 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.

Test Retakes
Students may be granted one retake opportunity on summative assessments at teacher discretion and with requirements in place.

For the Assessment Category Only: The student will 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 grade book.

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

- Consult with the teacher
- Submit a reassessment plan or application, if required by the teacher
- The reassessment plan may include all formative coursework related to the content/skill assessed

Reassessment Plan

- The student must initiate contact with the teacher within 5 school days of the assessment score being posted.

The student must communicate with the teacher to create a reassessment plan.

Late Work Procedure
Students who are turning in work after the Canvas published due date must email their teacher using proper email etiquette after submitting the assignment. Emails should include the name of the assignment, the due date, and the date it was submitted.

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.

Academic Integrity: As stated in the Arizona English Language Arts Standards, students need to be college and career ready when graduating high school. To meet this standard, students will be expected to accurately and consistently cite all sources used in their work and to submit designated assignments to turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. If it is determined that student work is plagiarized, appropriate consequences will be enforced per school policy.

Daily Device Use
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, or pencils.
2. Highlighters.
3. Composition Book or Spiral Notebook for taking notes and/or completing assignments that are not on Canvas.
4. Independent reading book of choice.
5. Downloaded apps: Notability, Chrome, Power Schools, Canvas

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 every day 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.

Examples of Negative Consequences
Verbal warning, parental contact, removal from class, administration referral.