



Fairfield Ludlowe High School - Fairfield Warde High School

# DARK CHRONICLES: THE LITERATURE OF TRUE CRIMES AND MYSTERIES

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Insert Teacher Name

Insert Room Number

Insert Full Year/Semester

Insert Period

Insert Email Address

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course explores the writing about crimes and the criminal mind, an area of morbid fascination in modern society. Students will look at some of the more gruesome crimes that have been captured in literary works, including such classics as Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. They will also use their analytical skills to evaluate and piece together evidence in their role as citizen detectives when listening to podcasts like *Serial* and *My Favorite Murder*. In addition, students will explore detective mysteries by the likes of Edgar Allan Poe, Agatha Christie, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Walter Mosley, Stephen King and other detective writers. Students will also try their hand at writing about a real crime using the strategies and structures of true crime literature.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

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Students should:

- read to uncover the steps a detective takes to solve a mystery
- research and discuss real crimes and criminals and the impact they may have had on the mystery genre
- consider and discuss the effect violent trauma has on a community and the individuals in that community
- develop an understanding of how the criminal mind works

## UNITS OF STUDY

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- The Portfolio
- Unit 1: It's Elementary: The Art of the Detective Story
- Unit 2: The Criminal Mind

## COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

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### GRADING

Cumulative/ In- Progress Grading

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- 10% of the grade will be based on formative assessments, homework completion, or behavior (see FPS BOE [Policy 6154.1AR](#))
  - 90% will be based on assessments

#### End of Course Grade

- 80% of the overall course grade will reflect the student's mastery of course content and skills during the school year through the Cumulative/In-Progress Grade.
- 20% of the Semester course grade will be based on the Final Assessment.

In addition, please see [Policy 6146.1AR](#) for additional information on grade reporting and late work.

## MATERIALS

Insert Course Materials Here (ie. Textbook, Binder, Calculator, Highlighters)

## EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

### [FPS District Guidelines for use of A.I.](#)

Insert Course Expectations Here (including those for the use of AI in your class. See the AI guidelines for consistent language)

## WRITING CONFERENCES

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**Writing conferences are meetings between an English teacher and student outside of class to discuss the student's work.** They are an integral part of the Fairfield Public Schools' high school English program. Each student is required to participate in at least one writing conference per semester and at least three throughout the year.

### **When should students schedule conferences?**

Writing conferences can occur during any stage of the writing process: generating ideas, gathering evidence, drafting, editing, revising, and reflecting. A student might use a writing conference to deepen understanding and hone skills, including conceptual understanding, logical thinking, organization, development of ideas, integration of support and detail, grammar, and/or mechanics. For some assignments, teachers might require students to schedule conferences. **For the first conference of the semester, I am happy to work with you on your ideas or drafts of College Application essays.**

### **How do students schedule conferences?**

Sign up for Writing Conferences using the "Writing Conference" App on Classlink.

### **Can students schedule conferences to discuss reading assignments?**

Yes. Developing and deepening an understanding of course content are inextricably connected to writing assignments.

**Are students limited to three writing conferences each school year?**

No. Students may schedule more than three writing conferences as long as teachers have room in their schedules and the opportunity to meet with all of their students.

**Are writing conferences a part of English elective courses?**

Yes. Students in English electives are expected to participate in writing conferences.