

# Syllabus

## Basic Composition and Rhetoric

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Instructor: Ms. Scannell

### **I. Class Requirements**

- a. Supplies
  - i. 3-ring binder with five dividers OR 5-subject notebook WITH folders in each divider
  - ii. Loose-leaf paper (college or wide ruled)
  - iii. Blue/black ink pens
  - iv. Pencils
- b. Labeling of notebook dividers
  - i. **Overview/Expectations/Syllabus**
  - ii. **Journal**
  - iii. **Composition**
  - iv. **Notes**
  - v. **Daily Oral Language/Vocabulary**
- c. ALWAYS BRING YOUR CHROME BOOK TO CLASS!

### **II. Determination of grades**

- a. Daily assignments: 20%
- b. Unit tests/quizzes: 25%
- c. Compositions/projects: 30%
- d. Daily Oral Language/Vocabulary: 25%

### **III. Grading scale**

The grading scale that will be used is the grading scale that has been established by the Virginia School Board and is published in the student handbook.

### **IV. Tentative Schedule**

#### **First & Second Semester**

Daily Oral Language/Vocabulary Units – TBA

- a. Bell Ringers: Journals & DOL (MWF); SSR (T/Th)
- b. Multigenre Research Paper: Examples throughout first and second quarter; exploration of individual topics during second quarter (semester 1)
- c. Analysis Forum
- d. Research paper: MLA style (semester 2)
- e. Student portfolio (semester 2)

#### **Additional Information:**

- 1. Journals:
  - a. Each journal entry should be at least 1/2 of a page and should be an in-depth reflection on a topic or question provided by the instructor.
  - b. Each journal entry will be worth 10 points.
  - c. If the journal entry displays effort, in-depth thought, is legible, and lacks distracting grammar errors then all 10 points will be given. However, a journal entry that lacks these criteria will not receive all 10 points.

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## Topics Covered

Narrative, workplace, & persuasive writing (semester 1)  
Informative & research (semester 1 & 2)  
Analysis  
Reader comprehension  
Critical thinking

Debate  
Logos, ethos, pathos  
Inference  
Writing

The texts used will include, but are not limited to:

Student choice novels  
Non-fiction works  
Student-driven research  
Short stories

“An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” – Ambrose Bierce

“The Yellow Wallpaper” – Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Writing theory used will include, but is not limited to:

Reader response theory  
New critical theory

## Daily Assignments

There will be works assigned to students daily or every other day. This may include reading, journals, writing, and independent research. Students must complete all daily assignments on time to receive credit unless otherwise arranged with Ms. Scannell. Daily assignments will account for 20% of the total quarter grade.

## Unit Tests/Quizzes

Students will take frequent reading quizzes that may consist of multiple choice, short answer, or essay questions. At the end of each unit, students may receive unit tests. Unit tests may also be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Unit tests/quizzes will account for 25% of the total quarter grade.

## Compositions/Projects:

Students will be expected to write frequently in this course. Writing may take the form of short papers, blog/forum posts, journals, and unit tests/quizzes. At the end of the first semester, students will be asked to complete a multi-genre research paper on an approved topic. The multi-genre research project will require knowledge and exploration of different styles of writing. We will review and practice various styles of writing throughout the semester. At the end of the second semester, students will be required to complete a research paper in MLA format. Students will also compile their best work over time to put in their final portfolio which students will present at the end of the year. Student compositions/projects will account for 30% of the total quarter grade.

## Daily Oral Language/Vocabulary:

In order to improve upon grammar skills, students will participate in daily oral language. We will also be focusing on expanding our vocabularies throughout the semester and will have vocabulary assignments as well as quizzes. Daily oral language/vocabulary will account for 25% of the total quarter grade.