



2019-2020 COURSE SYLLABUS

Ms. D. Webster
English 11 (ERWC)

email: Diane-Webster@scusd.edu

I love working with students and helping them to develop their academic reading and writing skills. It is a joy to read your ideas on real life issues and being a part of your growth in this academic community. However, the most difficult part is assigning grades, and research shows that a focus on grades impedes the learning process for many students. As a result, some students do not take risks in their writing, exploring ideas, and working to develop your own voice and style. Instead, you play it safe.

Traditional grades either reward or punish students for the skills that they already have when they walk into the classroom. Some students have a strong academic background while other students do not. Students who are well read can probably write a stellar essay without much help or input from me; unfortunately, for students who English is not your strongest subject, you may need a little more help and opportunities for revision to complete a well written essay. Contract grading is a way of acknowledging the hard work that students put into their work and the growth and improvement that takes place during the school year.

Contract grading won't magically make writing and reading complex text easy, but the plan is to ease some of the worry and pressure so that you can focus more on your learning and less on your grades. This is how it works.

Contract Conditions:

At the beginning of each semester, every student in this class has a "B." If you do all that is required in the manner and spirit that it is intended, you will maintain that "B." If you violate the terms of this contract such as missing too many days of class, showing up unprepared, missing assignments, turning assignments in late, or not attempting to make an effort to improve the quality of your work through meaningful revisions, your grade will be lower. If you go above and beyond the terms of the contract, you can earn an "A."

Preparation and Participation:

You *must* attend class in order to participate; however, participation means more than simply showing up to class. It means active engagement. You agree to come prepared to class each day with the completed reading and/or writing assignments, to work cooperatively and collegially in groups, and to help your classmates improve their writing skills by offering thoughtful, constructive and genuine feedback.

- **Missed In-class Socratic Seminar.** Socratic seminars play an important role in this course and act as an assessment on text/subject material studied in class. *These activities cannot be made up, but you can miss one without penalty if the absence is excused.*

Meeting Deadlines:

You agree to submit all essay drafts, final drafts and other assignments complete and on time.

- **Missed Homework Assignments (not including essays or rough drafts).** Homework will be checked and stamped daily. You may miss (3) each semester without penalty, **late homework will not be accepted.**
- **Late Papers.** You may turn in one late submission essay without penalty each semester. **Please note that all essays must be turned in to pass the class.**



Revision:

Success in this class is about your commitment to the process, engagement, and effort because I want you to leave this course feeling confident as a reader, thinker and writer. This means we will work together to revise your papers until they meet the expectations of yourself, your classmates, and your instructor. We will spend a lot of time in class discussing these expectations and collaborating on the skills you need to meet and exceed them.

You agree to revise three of the four formal essays until they meet the minimum standards of the following:

Grading Rubric:

- **Unity.** The thesis is apparent and generally controls the direction and development of the essay.
- **Support/Development.** Body paragraphs are adequately developed with relevant examples/textual evidence and explanation/analysis and includes attempts to connect examples to main ideas.
- **Organization.** The essay follows a logical progression of ideas and evidence with the effective use of transitional devices.
- **Sentence Structure.** Sentences are a variety of structures such as simple, compound and complex. In addition, it shows that the writer can choose words correctly, control sentences of reasonable variety, and observe the rules of standard written English.

Contract Agreement Chart:

<i>Grade</i>	<i># of missed in-class assignments</i>	<i># of missed homework assignments</i>	<i># of late essays</i>	<i># of papers below minimum standards</i>
A	0-1	0-1	0	0
B	0-3	0-3	0-1	0-1
C	4-6	4-6	2	2
D	7-9	7-9	3	3
F	10+	10+	4+	4

“A” Grade:

In order to receive an “A” in this course, you must meet *all* the criteria for a “B” including:

1. Visit the Literacy Lab *at least three times* and complete a conference reflection for each visit.
2. Complete all required assignments by the due dates.

Plea. I, Diane Webster, as the administrator of our contract, will decide in consultation with you, the student, as to whether a plea is warranted in any case. You must come to me as soon as possible, usually before you are unable to meet the contract, in order to make fair and equitable arrangements. The plea is NOT an “out clause” for anyone who happens to not fulfill the contract in some way; it is for rare and unusual circumstances out of the control of the student.

Contract Agreement. By attending and staying in this class, you accept this contract and agree to abide by it. I, Diane Webster, also agree to abide by the contract and administer it fairly and equitably.



English 11 Contract for First Semester

Ms. D. Webster

email: Diane-Webster@scusd.edu

Name: _____

Contract Agreement Chart:

	#of missed in class assignments/activities	#of missed homework assignments	#of late papers	#of writing assignments need of revision
B				
C				
D				
F				

Progress toward "A" Grade:

Writing Conferences	Literacy Lab	Literacy Lab	Literacy Lab
In-class Final Reflection			



English 11 Contract for Second Semester

Ms. D. Webster

email: Diane-Webster@scusd.edu

Name: _____

Contract Agreement Chart:

	#of missed in class assignments/activities	#of missed homework assignments	#of late papers	#of writing assignments need of revision
B				
C				
D				
F				

Progress toward "A" Grade:

Writing Conferences	Literacy Lab	Literacy Lab	Literacy Lab
In-class Final Reflection			