



2021-2022 COURSE SYLLABUS

Mary-Jo Baniecki

Maryjo-Baniecki@scusd.edu

(916) 395-5090 X 506303

Room C303

Program in America and California Exploration (PACE) offers students a four-year advanced academic program with an emphasis in English and history. The goal is to ensure that all PACE graduates are prepared to attend and succeed at competitive four-year colleges and universities.

Course Description

This semester-length course is developed for students seeking a challenge in the area of English Language Arts. Materials and assignments are designed to lay the groundwork for students who are interested in taking the AP test in their junior or senior year. This course will move at a rapid pace and students will be expected to perform at a high level. Regardless of these high expectations students can expect a fun and enlightening semester.

Course Curriculum

The curriculum for this class is drawn from the California Common Core State Standards, which are divided into four areas of study: Reading, Writing, Oral and Written Language (including Grammar), and Listening/Speaking. The units of study are designed and organized to address all of the standards for English grade 9P. We will be accessing these standards through a study of vocabulary, short stories, grammar, elements of literature, novels, plays, and poetry. For a complete list of the CA Standards for ELA, please visit www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf

Course Objectives:

At the end of the semester, you should be able to do the following.

- Read and interpret literary works.
- Write descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive paragraphs and essays.
- Analyze the elements of a novel, poem, short story, drama, and non-fiction through discussion and written compositions.
- Include standard grammar usage in oral and written works.
- Expand vocabulary knowledge

Class Expectations - in class

1. Be on time, sit in your assigned seat, prepared and ready to go with all required materials when the bell rings.

2. Be respectful of your teacher, your classmates, other teachers and administrators, your school, and anything that does not belong to you. Disrespect in any form will result in disciplinary action.
3. Your district Chromebook is important for this class. Please remember to stay on task. Also, before you come to school, charge up your laptop. It might come in hand to bring your charging cable to use throughout the day.

Taking pictures or video in class is prohibited. Desks should also be cleared of purses, backpacks, and clothing. Occasionally, cell phone usage will be allowed but only for academic purposes.

4. Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. (See plagiarism/Cheating Policy on the next page)
5. Participate, take risks, and do not be afraid to make mistakes!

Books

Texts include: Magic Lens Grammar, Prestwick House Vocabulary Power Plus, short stories, poems, and the following novels: The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian, The House on Mango Street, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings and Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet. Excerpts from articles, advertising and film will supplement. Other selections from Recommended Literature, Grades Nine through Twelve may be included in the curriculum. TAKE CARE OF YOUR TEXTS! They are your responsibility. With the availability of district laptops, many of the texts will be available online.

Required Materials

Students will need to bring the following items to class with them each day

- ⇒ All students are required to have a two pocket folder for English class.
- ⇒ Pencils and pens (dark blue and/or black ink only, please).
- ⇒ A charged computer and charging cord
- ⇒ colored pencils, lined and white paper, **an ultra fine sharpie** (super important)
- ⇒ Textbook(s) or current reading materials ([PDFs of texts from the teacher](#))
- ⇒ (Highlighters, glue sticks, post-it notes can be useful in class but are not required)

Grading Policy

This course requires daily reading and writing. Writing tasks range from short, timed quick writes to longer pieces that are taken through the writing process and may take a week or more to complete. Longer writing pieces are evaluated using English department-wide rubrics.

In addition, there will be weekly vocabulary tests . Please be prepared with knowledge of the vocabulary words including synonyms and antonyms.

Weekly, I will be posting an update to our Infinite Campus grading program. I allow myself a two week window for larger writing assignments. Check Infinite Campus regularly and if you notice a discrepancy, please see me.

Grading Scale

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89.9%
- C 70-79.9%
- D 60-69.9%
- F 0-59.9%

Categories in Infinite Campus - Writing, Tests and Quizzes, Classwork and homework, PACE Requirements, Projects

Attendance/Tardy Policies

Every student is expected to attend every class **on time every day** unless the student is required to be absent for a valid excuse. Because freshmen PACE English is a block schedule, a one day absence is like a two day absence. If you know that you will be absent for a long period of time, please make arrangements with me at least a week ahead so I can compile your make-up work. The make-up work will be time sensitive. Most work will be posted on our Google Classroom.

Truancy, unverified and unexcused absences, excessive absences, and tardies affect the students' education and increase the chances for failure. Tardies interrupt and interfere with the learning environment for all students and the teaching opportunities for teachers.

Final Copies of Formal Writing

Final copies of papers, essays, and projects will be word-processed in MLA format unless otherwise specified. We will go over MLA format in class. Students will use blue/black ink if a writing assignment is done in class but most writing assignments will be completed on the student laptop. Most at-home essays will be turned in using Google Classroom. **Late or Missing Work:**

1. **Late homework is not accepted** unless accompanied by an "OOPS Pass or the student contacts Ms. Baniecki. Three OOPS passes are given each semester. Attach the OOPS pass to your missed work and hand it to the teacher the day after the assignment is due. Please do not put it in the Homework area of the classroom. (However, if you have an EXCUSED absence, you will be able to make up that work without an OOPS Pass.)
2. **If an absence is planned in advance**, you can arrange to have someone turn in your work for you. It is the student's responsibility to contact their peer partner or email the teacher about work missed during an excused unplanned absence. Please check Google Classroom for weekly agenda news.
3. Make-up work will be accepted within two days for each excused absence. Ideally, I would like an email notifying me that you will be absent. Please ask me for work you may have missed immediately after an absence before school begins. I am usually in our classroom 45 minutes before school. Please do not ask me for make-up work during class time.

Since homework counts as a part of your grade, keep returned papers at home, in a folder, or in a binder. There are a few reasons for this:

- 1) to review notes/homework before a test
- 2) to have proof of completed assignments.
- 3) to keep your work organized on your computer, maybe use folders in your Google Drive

Plagiarism/Cheating/Academic Dishonesty Policy

Academic dishonesty is the use of a person's work, concepts, designs, data ideas, research, or documentation without assigning proper credit to the source. It goes beyond plagiarism to include lying, cheating, providing and/or using unauthorized materials in preparation for an assignment, quiz, or test and/or using and/or providing unauthorized materials during a quiz or test.

Examples of plagiarism/cheating/academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Looking at someone else's work product or allowing someone else to look at one's work product.
- Using any kind of "cheat notes" during a quiz or test.
- Both accidental and purposeful using of quotes, paraphrases, and/or summaries from sources without using necessary quotation marks (within quotes), appropriate writing guidelines and formats, proper citations, and complete works cited entries or references,
- Giving or receiving any information concerning the content prior to a test or quiz. Providing and/or selling an assignment, quiz, and/or test.
- Using an electronic device to provide, receive, store, and/or copy information before, during or after an assignment, quiz, and/or test.
- Copying homework.

Plagiarism is a serious offense that is unacceptable and that will be dealt with accordingly.

Extra Help:

If you need help with something we are doing in class, please set up a time to see me. I am usually available before school daily.

The principal reserves the right to modify and/or change the course syllabus as needed during the course.

