

Ponderosa High School
Expository Reading & Writing Course (ERWC) Syllabus 2023-24
Mr. Beatty --- Room H12
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Course Description & Objectives:

This curriculum was developed by high school teachers in conjunction with faculty from CSUs across the state. It is a rigorous curriculum that “prepares students to meet the academic demands and expectations of college[s] and universit[ies]” (<https://www.calstate.edu/eap/englishcourse>).

In this class, students will explore various topics related to real-world experiences. Some of the topics include space exploration, juvenile justice, the role of news media, and more. Students will be reading, discussing, and writing about non-fiction articles and current events related to these topics. This class is structured similarly to a college-level writing course, so there will be many formal and informal writing assignments throughout the year. These assignments will vary in length and type, intended to promote students’ analytical writing skills, academic literacy, and rhetorical awareness. In addition, students will read two full-text books this year: *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer, in the Fall, and *1984*, by George Orwell, in the Spring.

Materials:

The following materials are recommended and should be brought to class each day:

- Writer’s Notebook, spiral or composition
- Pencils/pens
- Binder paper
- Course text (when applicable)

Technology:

Much of the work students do in class will be completed and submitted electronically. We will be routinely using various technological resources in class, including but not limited to:

- Chromebooks (provided in class - not assigned to be taken home)
- Google Classroom
- Turnitin.com
- PHS Library Databases
- Noredink.com, etc.

We will be creating and/or updating accounts for each of these platforms within the first weeks of school. Students will be responsible for keeping track of their own login information.

Late Work Policy:

Late work will be accepted for partial credit. For two days after an assignment is due, late submissions will receive up to 75% credit. After this point, late submissions will receive up to 50% credit. If an assignment is more than five days late, the student must see me to discuss whether or not the work will receive any credit.

In the case of excused absences, students have two days from the time of their return to make up their work without penalty. ****If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due and was previously aware of the due date, the assignment is still due either on that day (if the work is to be submitted online) or on the day the student returns to school.****

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined by the number of points students earn. All assignments will be categorized as follows:

- **Writing**
- **Practice Mastery Work**
- **Projects & Presentations**
- **Reading/Annotations**
- **Tests & Quizzes**
- **Participation**

A+ 97-100%	A 93-96%	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%
B- 80-82%	C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%	D+ 67-69%
D 63-66%	D- 60-62%	F 59% and below		

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's language or ideas in your work and passing it off as your own. If a student commits plagiarism, their work will be given an F grade (0 points), parents/guardians will be contacted, and they may be given a referral. ***Do not copy anyone's work, do not give your work to anyone else, and always cite your sources.*** Don't plagiarize; it's not worth it.

Generative AI technology (ChatGPT, etc) is now universally accessible online and, though very useful in some ways, can easily be abused in the classroom and utilized by students for plagiarism purposes. As a class, we will discuss Generative AI and its unethical/unacceptable use at school, as well as how it can be used responsibly as a tool. Students and parents/caregivers should clearly understand that any idea or text taken directly from a Generative AI source will constitute plagiarism and is unacceptable. **Parents/caregivers, please take some time to discuss the value of creating and submitting original work, as well as the responsible use of online/digital tools, with your student at your convenience. Thank you!**

Course Expectations:

- Be seated at your desk and ready to engage when the bell rings. Consequences for tardies will follow PHS guidelines.
- Turn in all work on time. Late work will be accepted according to the late work policy above. .
- Keep personal phones/electronics put away during class time.
- Use chromebooks only for assigned classwork and activities. Chromebooks are not for watching videos, playing games, etc.
- Be a team player - group discussions and other collaborative activities are an integral part of this course, so it is expected that you participate respectfully and actively.
- Be responsible and take accountability for your actions.
- Demonstrate kindness and respect toward yourself, your classmates, your teacher, and our classroom.

