

# Course Syllabus: English Language Arts GATE

**Teacher:** Ms. Cox

**Room Number:** 12

**Email:** Cheryl.cox@fresnounified.org

**Phone Number:** (559) 253-6510

**Preparation Period/ Time:** 4<sup>th</sup> Period

**Course Description:** This GATE ELA class is designed to help students make meaning of complex texts and prepare them for rigorous textual analysis expected in high school and college courses. The skills students will acquire in ELA allow them to think critically and respond thoughtfully to important topics in all content areas, and in society. We will be studying literary and informational texts, film for comparison and analysis of key ideas. We will learn research-based reading, writing, speaking, and listening strategies that will help students develop literacy. We will engage with an interactive digital textbook to build skills in technology.

- **Academic Objective:** Students will learn high-order critical thinking skills, precision in reading and writing, analysis and evaluation skills, problem-solving skills, deeper conceptual understanding of literary and informational texts, expand academic vocabulary, and media literacy skills.
- **Student Behavior Plan:** Students that violate our classroom norms and FUSD rules will be held accountable in the following ways: 1.) Warning 2.) Points off classroom citizenship grade 3.) Lunch Meeting 4.) Phone call home/parent meeting 4.) After-school detention/parent meeting 5.) Referral/parent meeting.
- **FUSD Rules:** 1.) Be on time. 2.) Be courteous, respectful, and cooperative. 3.) Follow the FUSD dress code and electronics policies. 4.) Come prepared with supplies and a hardworking attitude. 5.) Don't be a bully, and don't tolerate bullying. 6.) Stay in your assigned seat.
- **Grading Scale**

45 %: Assessments (CFUs, Diagnostic Tests, Essays, Etc.)

35 %: Classwork (Springboard, iReady)

10 %: Book Projects/Reports

10%: Homework/Agenda Checks/Citizenship

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100%-90%= A

89%-80%= B

79%-70%= C

69%-60%=D

59%-below=F

**\*Students with a D or below will be required to attend lunch tutorial and/or after-school tutorial for academic intervention support.**

**Classroom Citizenship:**

**The main purpose of establishing guidelines is to create a safe environment for all students to learn. Violating someone else's right to an education will not be tolerated.**

In addition to your academic grade, you will receive a grade for citizenship. This is worth 10% of your grade. The citizenship grade will be based on your character as a member of our classroom, behavior in terms of duties, leadership obligations, class expectations, and based on the following criteria: Be present on time; Stay in class until the bell rings; Be prepared; Have a positive attitude; Stay focused; Try your best; Be respectful.


• **Course Assessments: 2019-2020**

Quarter 1: Expository Essay; Argumentative Essay

Quarter 2: Presenting Voices of the Holocaust Presentation; Multimedia Campaign

Quarter 3: Literary Analysis of a Humorous Text; Perform Shakespearean Comedy

Quarter 4: Writing a Definition Essay; Writing a Hero's Journey Narrative

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- **Book Projects:** Students are to read 1 book per quarter and complete a book project for that book. This is 10 % of their grade and if not complete will greatly affect their quarter grade.

**District Goals:**

- All students will excel in reading, writing, and math
- All students will engage in arts, activities, and athletics
- All students will demonstrate the character and competencies for workplace success
- All students will stay in school on target to graduate


**Materials required (daily): List**

- Agenda, and a pencil. This is REQUIRED every day.
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Late Work Policy— late work will receive a 10% deduction per day late off assignment grade, unless otherwise indicated by the teacher. Absences: You will receive an extra day to do assignments for each day you were absent. All weekly agenda information and assignments will be available for you in the classroom. It is your responsibility to grab the missing work and agenda information when you return to school.

**Effect of Absence on Grade**

- If a student's absence is excused under Education Code 48205, he/she shall be allowed to complete any missed assignment or test that be reasonably given, as determined by the teacher of that class. The student shall be given full credit for the assignment or test if he/she satisfactorily completes the assignment or test within a reasonable period of time. (Education Code 48205)
- Excused Absences – Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies, and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law and Board policy and specified in administration regulations. (Education Code 48205)



**Expectations/Student's Responsibilities:** Follow classroom procedures and expectations. 1.) Be on time. 2.) Be courteous, respectful, and cooperative. 3.) Follow the FUSD dress code and electronics policies. 4.) Come prepared with supplies and a hardworking attitude. 5.) Don't be a bully, and don't tolerate bullying. 6.) Stay in your assigned seat.

**Restroom:** Students will take care of bathroom and water needs before the bell. Students will NOT be released to use the restroom without permission. Bathroom privileges are at the teacher's discretion. No student may ask the first 15 minutes of class or the last 15 minutes of class. Each student will receive 2 bathroom passes per quarter and if they chose not to use it, they will receive extra credit for each pass.

**Assigned Seating:** Students will quietly and quickly come into class and sit in assigned seat. Failure to do so will result in class consequences.

**Technology:** No technology is allowed in the classroom unless specifically instructed by teacher. Students will shut phones off before entering the classroom and put them away in their backpacks. Any use of technology will result in teacher confiscating phones and turning phones into the office.

**Language:** Profanity does not belong in the classroom. Failure to conduct yourself in an academic manner will result in class consequences.


**Sacred Spaces:** Students will not touch classroom walls, teacher's technology (laptop, Projector, Speakers, Elmo), teacher's desk, and peers' belongings. Failure to follow these expectations will result in class consequences.

**Class Consequences:**

- 1.) **Verbal Warning**
- 2.) **Refocus Station with reflection**
- 3.) **Phone Call Home**
- 4.) **Referral with potential send out (follow with problem-solving circle or informal conference)**
- 5.) **Problem-solving circle with parent, administrator, teacher and student**

**Tardy Policy: (Example)**

Professional behavior includes punctuality (arriving to class on time). Students who are late to class must have a tardy pass; students who do not have a pass will be asked to obtain one from a campus administrator. Students who demonstrate a pattern of tardiness will be assigned class detention in order to make up for lost instructional time. An excessive number above 3 will be addressed through the Scandinavian Restorative Discipline Policy.



# Turn in to Teacher signed by both student and parent

## Parent – Student – Teacher Agreement Letter

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Hello Parents,

I look forward to getting to know you this year! I hope we can work as a team to help support your child's learning and academic growth (it truly takes a tribe to raise a child!). I love having parents come visit my class, and I am always available to talk about any concerns you may have. My contact information is on the first page; feel free to drop by, email me, or give me a call. **If your student has a D or F in ELA they must attend mandatory lunch (11:59-12:35) or after school tutorial (2:30-3:30) until they earn a C or better.**

Best regards,

**Ms. Cox**

**Scandinavian Middle School**

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Parent/Guardian Printed

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Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Best way to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name and ID Number Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

