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**Instructor:** Ms. Michelle Drake

**E-mail:** mdrake@asd20.org

**Extension:** 3431

**Room:** #3431 (except for American Studies) **Prep. Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

**Course Objectives:**

Students will study the philosophical questions posed by this year's reading curriculum from a variety of perspectives. These questions might include: What is the meaning of life? How can humanity be happy? How should humans act? Do humans have "free will"? If so, what are the consequences? What is Art? Truth? Knowledge? Goodness? Evil? Justice? Mercy? Students will engage in dialogue in which they form their own opinions on such philosophical questions. In addition to articulating their own positions, students will learn generosity and thoughtfulness towards the authors of the past, using close analysis of the text and careful classroom conversation. *We will look not only at the "what" (authors, plots, characters) but deeply and frequently discuss the "how" (technique) and the "why" (purpose, application, virtuous lesson and motivation) of literature.*

**Class Requirements and Expectations:**

- Completion of all assignments on time, specifically reading schedules
- Participation in and preparation for class discussions and activities
- Peer editing, student presentations and other assignments as instructed
- Short practice writing assignments
- Grammar review and composition practice
- Essay writing, in MLA format
- Research and independent reading, culminating in the senior thesis

**Syllabus of Major Works (order and details subject to change):**

**Semester One:** *The Inferno*, Dante

*The Brothers Karamazov*, Dostoyevsky

*Selected Poems*

**Semester Two:** *Hamlet*, Shakespeare

*The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Wilde

*Selected Poems*

*1984*, Orwell

**Students are evaluated by:**

- Preparation for discussion, including consistency in bringing books, annotating or other assigned notes and evidence of completion of expected reading prior to class.
- Participation in analytical conversation and activities, including engaging with other students and the instructor politely, positively and academically.
- Potential reading quizzes, in-class writing or other accountability for reading.
- Tests/Exams/Final Exam – approximately one for each unit/novel, which will explore the student's knowledge of the text as well as key notes, terms and ideas discussed in class.
- Essays and short papers in MLA format, providing detailed, skilled analysis.
- Final Senior Thesis Paper (Spring Semester), displaying a capstone research and writing effort, worth approximately 30% of the second semester grade.

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**Grading and late penalties** are consistent with TCA policies. Large assignments, such as papers or exams, are particularly subject to these restrictions and penalties. In order to be consistent across course and instructors, the approximate weighted categories are as follows:

Fall –	Spring
15% quizzes and in-class writing	15% quizzes and in-class writing
20% participation	20% participation
35% tests and essay	35% tests and essay
30% final exam	30% thesis paper

**Class Materials:**

- **YOUR BOOK (s)!** Every day unless stated otherwise you **MUST** bring your book.
- Writing implements of your choice for taking notes and annotating the texts.
- A notebook/ or 3-ring binder with lined paper for in-class writing assignments
- A folder or your binder in which you can store hand-outs and returned assignments.
- A set of 100 notecards (for *Inferno*.)
- **Highly recommended:** A personal copy of your independent reading book of choice for the Senior thesis project (list of authors/options to be distributed.)
- **Digital:** An operational PPLD library card and an operational JSTOR account for research on the thesis paper and other assignments
- **Digital:** Your Turnitin.com password and log-in information for writing assignments

**Donations/Requests:**

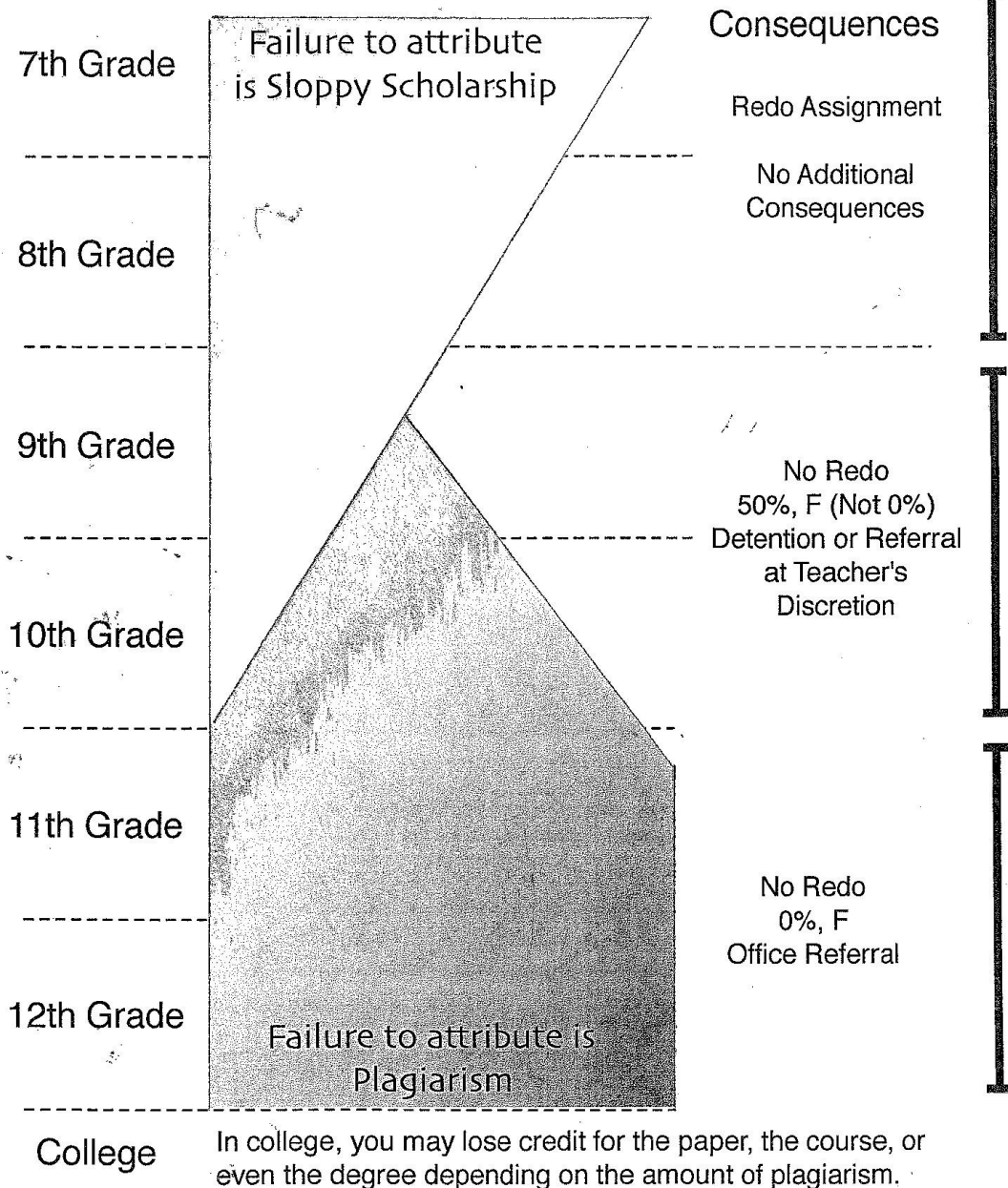
- **A box of tissues** – always appreciated and necessary!
- Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing surface wipes
- I enjoy sharing tea or hot chocolate on cold or low-energy days. What could be better than a hot drink and a literary discussion? If you would like to contribute a box of your favorite warm beverage (**hot chocolate goes quickly!**), **Styrofoam cups, or plastic spoons** for stirring, I would greatly appreciate it (and so might your student!)

**Classroom Expectations:**

I will not bother to reiterate what you have already agreed to in the TCA Student Handbook. You all know what is expected of you regarding dress code, tardiness, cheating and generally respectful behavior. Instead, I will say that in my classroom I expect much more from you than the minimum appropriate behavior. This is an upper-level course – what we in the “Classical” education model call a “Rhetoric” level course. That means you are past the “Grammar” of good behavior, repetition and memorization. You are expected to come curious, to challenge yourself and your classmates, and to think and converse with more depth, energy and generosity than ever before. I expect what TCA proclaims as its motto: excellence with honor.

Please look below for a refresher on TCA guidelines regarding plagiarism and late work. We abide by these standards.

TCA is committed to honest scholarship, especially honoring original authors with proper attribution. Any information that is not common knowledge must be attributed to the original source with a citation. As students develop their understanding of this expectation, both the characterization of non-attribution and the consequences become more severe.



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### TCA Secondary – Late Work Guidelines

*In the application of the late policy penalty, it is the responsibility of the student to self-advocate, and the teacher to consider the circumstances.*

**Daily/Short-term/Homework:** Work that is usually completed overnight (or within a week of assignment); usually worth less than 1% of total semester grade:

- All courses (other than math):
  - 1+ day late: 20% penalty off of graded assignment o Students will be allowed to turn in homework after the due date, but by the end of the unit/chapter.
  - After the unit/chapter: 0% credit □ Math:
  - 1+ day late: 50% penalty off of graded assignment o After test: 0% credit

**Labs/Long-term/Projects:** Work that is usually assigned at least 1-2 weeks prior to the due date; usually worth a significant percentage of the student’s overall semester grade:

- 1+ day late: 20% penalty off of graded assignment o Grades 7/8 (up to 7 days) o Grades 9/10 (up to 5 days) o Grades 11/12 (up to 3 days)
- After days indicated: 0% credit

#### *Grade Penalty Reference*

<i>Full Credit (%)</i>	<i>20% Penalty (%)</i>
100	80
90	72
80	64
70	56

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood the syllabus for World Literature.  
STUDENT

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood the syllabus for World Literature.  
PARENT