

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Brittany Cummings

ROOM: 316

PLAN: 3rd Hour

TELEPHONE: (785) 330-2246

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LAWRENCE FREE STATE HIGH SCHOOL/21st Century Literature Syllabus

Please hold on to this syllabus all semester.

WELCOME! As your teacher, I am so excited to welcome you to this class. I want this to be a positive learning environment for you, one that empowers you to explore new points of view and expand your perspectives about the world around you.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students who want to read and discuss major 21st-century writers. We will navigate the material we study through the lens of the Courageous Conversation Compass - responding to information through our thoughts, feelings, actions/behaviors, and beliefs.

We will achieve this during the following units:

1. Questioning the Status Quo: How Did We Get Here?
2. Beliefs and Morals: Understanding Law and Conflict
3. Reason, Imagination, and Creativity: Shaping Our Society by Telling Our Story

In each unit, you will have the opportunity to connect and enter into a conversation about the stories you read and what inspired these stories to begin with. You will develop your skills and understandings as a reader, writer, speaker, and thinker through close readings, discussion, inquiry, and writing in many different formats.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

We will use Google Classroom in this class. To join the class, first go to classroom.google.com. The class code to join is **u3t3ygd** for 1st hour, **cdfopk3** for 4th hour, **dzjvbig** for 5th hour, and **7ztxlex** for 7th hour.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Sticky notes
- Laptop
- Highlighter
- Writing utensil

EXTRA HELP

If you ever need help, I am available by appointment. You are welcome to email me to arrange a time to seek support at brittany.cummings@usd497.org. You can also email me about content that you have missed.

READING MATERIALS

You will read the following books:

- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- You'll also have the option to explore the following: *Winter's Bone* by Daniel Woodrell, *Between the World and Me* by Ta Nehisi Coates, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, *There There* by Tommy Orange, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah, *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward, and *Looking for Alaska* by John Green Stories as well as a range of poetry and short stories.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

In 21st Century Literature, excellence, respect, and responsibility will serve as the pillars for the work that we do here. What does that mean?

- 1) Work towards a positive mindset.
- 2) Be prepared.
- 3) Be on time.
- 4) Be an active participant in class discussions..
- 5) Be kind and considerate.

EXCELLENCE

- 1) I expect you to put your best effort into this class. Work hard, challenge yourself, and ask questions.
 - You will be expected to actively participate in class; you will be expected to read outside of class and keep up with assigned reading dates; you will be expected to discuss the readings; you will be expected to write.
 - Entering and Leaving the Classroom:
 - i) Find your assigned seat.
 - ii) Be prepared to begin each lesson with three to five minutes of [mindful breathwork](#).
 - iii) At the end of class, please remain seated, and do not begin to pack up prior to the bell ringing unless instructed to do so. Please pick up after yourself, and throw trash in the trash cans and recyclables in the recycle bin before you leave.
 - (1) If you have permission from Ms. Cummings to leave during the class period, take the hall pass with you.

RESPECT

- 2) I expect you to treat others in this classroom with respect.
 - You will demonstrate respect by listening and paying attention when I give directions and call the class to attention; you will demonstrate respect by listening to your classmates and their ideas; you will be respectful of everyone's right to learn, and the teacher's right to teach, by not being disruptive.
 - Respect all people, all places, all things, and all ideas.
 - Be kind.
 - Be present - physically and mentally.
 - You are expected to focus on the work at hand, listen respectfully (during instruction time or group work), participate in class, and be a good person.
 - Pictures or video recordings are not permitted without teacher consent.
 - (1) If you cannot do these things, you will recognize the problem and regulate it by placing your phone in the cell phone box at the front of the room (or you will be directed to place your phone in the box).

RESPONSIBILITY

- 3) I expect you to demonstrate responsibility.
 - You will be responsible for arriving to class on time, bringing necessary materials, turning in assignments on time, and getting make-up work if you are absent.
 - It is your responsibility to discuss concerns, grades, or assignments with me.

LATE WORK AND ABSENCES

Please turn in your work on the day it is due: it helps you to stay on track. I do accept late work through the end of the current unit, but I take off points for each class period the assignment is late. If you are absent, you are responsible for getting make-up work from me.

TECHNOLOGY AND HEADPHONES

We will use technology for educational purposes only. You are expected to avoid having your phone out during class. Please have your Macbook out only when we are using it for class. You may listen to music, with headphones/earbuds, during writing time and individual work time. You may not listen to music during class instruction, reading time, or during group work time.

FOOD AND DRINK

Please avoid bringing food into the classroom. You may discuss special circumstances with me. You may bring a drink into the classroom only if it has a lid on it.

GRADES

A 100% - 94%	B+ 89.9% - 87%	C+ 79.9% - 77%	D+ 69.9% - 67%	F <60%
A- 93.9% - 90%	B 86.9% - 83%	C 76.9% - 73%	D 66.9% - 63%	
	B- 82.9% - 80%	C- 72.9% - 70%	D- 62.9% - 60%	

Cheating/plagiarism is never acceptable at any time. It results in a student conference with the teacher, a zero grade for the assignment, and a parent meeting and/or office referral. Your grade will be determined by your effort. Hard work, persistence, and a positive attitude are the keys to success in 21st Century Literature.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Almost every class will begin with mindful breathwork, followed by an opening discussion, before we move into what we are studying.

SEMESTER OUTLINE

This course will require close (critical) reading and analytical writing, and will also focus on speaking and listening skills and improving your use of the English language. You are welcome to schedule a conference with me at any time to review your writing and to seek improvement.

August/September/October: Introductory activities; Introduce Unit 1: Questioning the Status Quo: How Did We Get Here?; *Where the Crawdads Sing*; Begin Unit 1 literature circle book group text.

October/November: Summative Unit 1 assessment; Introduce Unit 2: Beliefs and Morals: Understanding Law and Conflict; begin Unit 2 literature circle book text; Summative Unit 2 assessment

November/December: Introduce Unit 3: Reason, Imagination, and Creativity: Shaping our Society by Telling Our Story; Unit 3 literature circle book group text, Summative Unit 3 assessment; Semester final exam.

ONE LAST THING... HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SEMESTER! *Ms. Cummings*

August 22, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you and your student have had a happy and restful summer break. I will be instructing your student this semester in 21st Century Literature, and we are in for an exciting few months together! I want to take this opportunity to invite your support and participation in your student's learning.

Please take a few moments to review the syllabus with your student. It contains my expectations, the materials needed for class, what we will be reading, and how your student will be earning his/her/their grade.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have, or to bring to my attention any special requests or needs you'd like for me to address. I look forward to working with you and hope to see you at one of Free State's many opportunities to meet your student's teacher soon.

Kindest Regards,

Brittany Cummings
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Lawrence Free State High School
Lawrence, KS 66049
785-330-2246

brittany.cummings@usd497.org

Webex meeting: <https://usd497.webex.com/meet/pr26221904340>; please email me first to set up a meeting.

Acknowledgement of receipt and review of syllabus

(Student Signature)

Date

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Daytime Phone Number)

Date