

YOUR SYLLABUS FOR MS. SPECTER'S CLASS: SAVE AS THE FIRST THING IN YOUR *NOTEBOOK*



This syllabus is a work in progress.

GRADING POLICY

ESSAYS AND PROJECTS: 40%

TESTS AND QUIZZES: 30%

CLASSWORK (WARM-UPS, COOPERATION, ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY): 10%

HOMEWORK: 10%

INDEPENDENT READING /EXAMS: 10% -These percentages vary during exam season.

MATERIALS

THREE-RING BINDER WITH DIVIDERS ACCORDING TO FIVE GRADING CATEGORIES

LINED PAPER

BLUE AND BLACK PENS

PENCILS WITH ERASERS AND MINI-SHARPENERS

POCKET DICTIONARY

HIGHLIGHTERS

STICKY NOTES

INFORMATION ON BUYING BOOKS

- PLEASE CHECK OUT OR PURCHASE THE BOOKS WE CIRCLED BELOW.
- WWW.AMAZON.COM and WWW.PRESTWICKHOUSE.COM ARE USEFUL IF AREA BOOKSTORES ARE OUT OF YOUR BOOK.
- HAVING YOUR OWN BOOK GUARANTEES YOU A COPY IN BETTER SHAPE. IF YOU BUY THE BOOK, YOU CAN ALSO TAKE NOTES IN THE BOOK AND KEEP IT FOR YOUR LIBRARY.
- FOR SOME BOOKS, I CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH A COPY OF A BOOK IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN ONE.
- THE BOOKS WE WILL READ WILL BE ROUGHLY IN THE ORDER SHOWN IN THE CHART:

<u>BOOKS AND UNITS</u>	<u>ANALYZE, SYNTHESIZE, AND PERSUADE!</u> <u>CROSS-CULTURAL CLASHES AND UNDERSTANDINGS</u>	<u>NOTES</u> <i><u>*If you receive a 20 or an m, you may not have finished the work assigned.</u></i>
<i>Collection of summer reading essays, if applicable, & notebook/grammar/speech work</i>	<i>Some readings below may not follow this order.</i>	
<i>Song analysis essay</i>	YOUR CHOICE	
<i>Excerpts, Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe</i>	1959: Setting -- 1890s, Nigeria	
<i>The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini</i>	2003: 1975- Present, Afghanistan and USA	
<i>Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel Garcia Marquez</i>	1981: 1950s Columbia	
<i>Research paper, counter argument, & testing strategies</i>	VARIOUS TOPICS	
<i>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson</i>	1885: England	
<i>Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare</i>	c. 1599: 44 BCE, The Ides of March, Rome, Italy	
<i>Poetry unit</i>	DIFFERENT ERAS	
<i>Oedipus Rex by Sophocles</i>	400s BCE: Ancient classical Greek mythology	
<i>Baraka, directed by Ron Fricke</i>	1992: A WORLD VIEW	

To follow your grade, go to www.engage.com and enter your code (specterliz-ID #-xxxx). To follow the class blog or to email Ms. Specter, go to <http://msspecter.weebly.com>.

CLASS PROCEDURES

ENTERING THE ROOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the room punctually and check to pick up any hand-outs. Place absence notes, field trip forms, progress reports, etc. (with name and date) in indicated bin. • Then, in order to get full classroom credit, prepare <i>all</i> materials needed for class: for possible 3-ring notebook check and for warm-up check. Settle into desk quietly, saving questions for end of class. • Please remember that you do not need to ask out loud to go to the bathroom or to use the trash can or pencil sharpener. To leave the room, simply use the pass and turn the sign, or write a pass, silently, without attracting notice. • Use the bathroom one at a time. Please use the pass quickly & infrequently, without getting food/drink or using your cell phone, or you will lose the privilege. Even during breaks, people may only leave the room one at a time. • Usually you will stay in your seats. Please leave things where they are, and leave all boards, front desk, and computers to me, unless otherwise instructed. • Please dispose of your trash/recycling in the cans beside the door. Please drink only bottled water – no gum! Beware of unwanted, tiny classroom visitors! • Dictionaries, along with other supplies, are available for your use. Return all borrowed items. • Use no visible or detectable cell phones – hands-free classroom! Any electronics seen go in the IN/OUT box until the end of class. • Please raise your hand and wait for me to call on you via the index cards, especially during debates & discussions, otherwise you may be ignored. Use respectful language, respectful dress, and respectful voice volume. If you wish, you may say “pass.” • If you are late, sign in on the clipboard, write your name on any pass you have, and place the pass in the indicated bin. Move to your seat very quietly, no questions. • For excused absences, check for your make-up work with a partner, on the calendar, through online resources, or in the make-up notebook. • Place all late or make-up work in the late tray. Fill out the form and staple it to the work. I will not remind you. • If your work is late unexcused, you lose 10% per day late. If your work is late excused, you have one day extra per class absent to complete the work – otherwise, the work becomes late unexcused. • With extended time, you have a one week extension after the assignment is due, or the work becomes late. Talk to me beforehand for special circumstances. • All homework must be printed out (or written double-spaced, single-sided), and it must be turned in by deadline at beginning of class, or it is late. Late work should be placed in the late trays (see late policy). Each quarter, I announce a final due date for late work, not negotiable even if you are legally absent. • Do your best. I will give extra credit contests, but extra credit assignments are not fair policy. I do not round up grades, even by fractions of a point. • Check your own grade by using Engrade or by recording and averaging grades (algebra). If you can't average your grade, request time with me during lunch. • ADDRESS CLASS PROBLEMS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL AFTER SOMETHING IS DUE OR UNTIL THE END OF THE QUARTER • Respect seat changes, the seat arrangement, and partner pairs. • Attend every day, unless you are sick or dealing with an emergency. • Find ways to motivate yourself to pay attention, to complete classwork, and to take class/reading/test notes. <i>Generalize</i> your learning. • Learn to type quickly, and write as legibly as you can or type. Have an internet/printer plan. • Have a positive learning attitude: make learning your responsibility more than the teacher's. • Relate new information to things you already know or like. Be persistent in asking questions until you fully understand. • Be willing to seek help for personal problems; mental health is important. • Here are tips for maximizing mental and physical health: exercise, stretching, flossing, mental stimulation, avoiding drug use/unsafe sex, a nutritious natural food lifestyle, spending time outdoors, wearing sunscreen, stress management skills, and a peaceful attitude.
LEAVING SEATS OR ROOM	
TRASH, FOOD, GUM, MISC.	
LATE AND MAKE-UP PROCEDURES	
GRADE ISSUES	
GENERAL TIPS	