



2016-2017 ~ Junior English Outdoor Literature with Ms. Ball

In preparing students for the 21st century, a majority of work that students complete for American Literature I will be online. The purpose for this is: 1) colleges and universities will have an online component to their classes, if not being completely online; 2) to cut down on paper; 3) to get students comfortable with the ever-changing world of technology, and 4) to give parents/guardians a chance to be involved in their student's education. With work being online both in and out of class, students are utilizing a format that they are comfortable with, and will also learn how to better communicate with their peers through writing. Also, if a student has to miss any in-class time, they will still be able to access classroom materials necessary to keep up with the work.

Class Description

This class offers students the opportunity to explore literature that focuses on the outdoors, exploring numerous genres such as novels, short stories and poetry. Both survival and wildlife literature will be studied. The two major themes for this class are survival and risk. Assessments will be based on tests, various writing formats, class discussions, projects and presentations. Meeting the common core state standards of reading, writing, speaking and listening will be the focus, as well as preparation for the ACT which all juniors will take in April.

Class Content

The reading and film list may or may not include the following. Students and/or parents/guardians who do not want the student to read/view a certain piece may ask for an alternate assignment.

Readings

Touching Spirit Bear

Into Thin Air

Into the Wild

127 Hours

Various poetry and short stories

Film

Blindsight

Touching the Void

Into the Wild

127 Hours

Various documentaries and clips

Attendance Policy

"Action is the foundational key to all success." ~Pablo Picasso

"Bigfork High School believes that there is a direct relationship between school attendance and student achievement. The fewer school days missed during the year, the more successful students are in the classroom. Students must attend school regularly in compliance with Montana Law (20-5-103), Compulsory Attendance and Excuses" (BHS Student Handbook).

Being in class and ready to learn is one of the most important things to being successful. If students are not in class, they will have a hard time understanding material and keeping up. Due to this, attendance points will be given weekly. NOTE: These points cannot be made-up!

- Students will receive five points each week for being on time, in class and ready to learn.
- Tardies and unexcused absences will result in the loss of a point for that day.
 - *SCHOOL POLICY: Any student who is more than 10 minutes late to class will receive an automatic unexcused absence mark.*
 - Unexcused absences and excused absences are determined by the office, not the teacher. If a change is made by the office, the student needs to inform the teacher of the change.
- Excused absences, and school-sponsored events (sports, field trips, etc.) will not count against students. They will receive the point for that day and will still be required to complete work.
- In School Suspension (ISS), Out of School Suspension (OSS), and Truancy will result in a zero for the entire week.
- If a student is gone more than three days in the week, regardless of type of absence, they will not receive any points. Their grade will reflect an excused (E) mark, not a zero.

NOTE: Students must turn in all work PRIOR to being gone in the case of a field trip, sporting event, or pre-arranged absence AS IS THE SCHOOL POLICY!

Personal Technology Devices Policy

Personal technology devices (cell phones, iPods, tablets, etc.) are not allowed in Bigfork High School classrooms with the exception of when they are being used for teacher approved educational purposes.

Phones must be in silent mode, with the vibration turned off!

Procedures for Technology Interruptions:

- 1st Offense: Students found with their devices out in class, without teacher permission, will lose their device to the teacher for the remainder of the day, and will have to return after school to retrieve it and have a conversation about appropriate device use.
- 2nd Offense: If the student is found with their device out a second time, the device will be taken to the office and will have to be picked up from there.

Timed Writing Assignments

Students will be required to complete timed writing assignments in class throughout the year. These assignments can be made up but must be completed in school (either during study hall or after school). In April, all juniors will take the ACT at BHS that does include a timed writing portion. In order to prepare students for this test and others like it, students will practice brainstorming, pre-writing, and composition within a time limit.

Weekly Writing Assignments

Students will have a one page essay due at the end of each week. These essays formats will change each quarter to focus on specific writing skills. The purpose for these essays is to work on getting comfortable with writing, and finding, using and citing sources while writing about a topic that interests you.

- Quarter 1: Incorporating quotes (with citations) on a topic of the student's choosing which relates to classroom curriculum and student interest.
- Quarter 2: One paragraph précis (summarizing skills with citations) on any piece
- Quarter 3: Two paragraph précis on an argument piece with student response
- Quarter 4: To be determined based on class writing needs...

Quarterly Reading/Viewing/Listening Inquiry

Each quarter, students will have a research inquiry to complete. Students will come up with their own essential question they want to answer, and using texts, audio and video, will work to create this response. This will be shared with the class through specific projects. More information on the specifics will be provided. Students will have time weekly in class to devote to this final project.

Grading Policy

All grades will be on a point system rather than a percentage value. The accumulated points will be transferred into a percentage grade. There will often be time in class to get work completed. On average students should expect 1-3 hours of outside class time per week to devote to homework.

Grade % Equivalent

A.....90-100%

B.....80-89%

C.....70-79%

D.....60-69%

F.....59% and below

Weighted Grades

10%.....Semester Final

10%.....Attendance

15%.....Classwork (daily assignments, quizzes, discussions)

25%.....Weekly Writing Assignments and Timed Writings

40%.....Tests, Essays, and Final Projects

Due Dates

Most work will be turned in on Fridays in a packet the student creates from the week's work. The due date given is the ONLY due date where you can possibly receive full credit. Incomplete assignments, little effort, etc. will receive an appropriate grade, but it will be taken from the full credit. Students who miss on Fridays when work is completed can still receive full credit if their absence is excused. Students who miss class due to a field trip, sport event, or have other pre-arranged absences must have work turned in PRIOR to the due date, otherwise face the penalty of losing full credit. All work is due by the end of the school day (3:30pm).

½ Credit

Students may receive half credit for assignments turned in ONE day late. If you are absent (excused only), you will be given one extra day upon the due date to still receive full credit. A day late after that will fall into the ½ credit spot.

Zero Credit

Failure to turn work in on the due date or one day after the due date WILL RESULT IN A ZERO.

Considerations

- Absences: If you have a pre-arranged absence, I may or may not have work ready in time for you to get done prior to being gone (as is the school policy). If that is the case, you will be given the extended amount of time appropriate for the length of your absence.
- Work/Family Issues: Life situations happen, and I understand that. However, the only time I will consider taking late work is when the circumstances are severe and out of your control—when patterns start to arise it may cause me to question your work ethic. If you feel that late work is warranted, come and talk to me or email me BEFORE your assigned class period and the assignments are due. The accepted late work reasons and acceptance will be known only between the student, parent/guardian and myself, and does not give license to other

students to also get an extension. All unexcused absences will result in a zero on the assignment due that day. Failure to speak with Ms. Ball will result in the ½ credit or zero for the assignment. Come speak to me privately so we can discuss whatever help/added time you may need.

- IEPs: Students with an IEP will be given one week from the original due date to get work in AS LONG AS the student has been utilizing class time effectively and still needs additional time. After that they have one day for the ½ credit, and then it will be a zero. This will be discussed on an individual basis.
- When you miss school for any reason, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check with the schedule and with me to get make-up work—I am not going to search you out. You have 7 teachers and I have 120 students. It is your responsibility to advocate for yourself!

Class Calendar and Reminders

Every class has a calendar available on my website (cballengish.weebly.com). Students and parents can print this off to have for the week/month. If there are any questions regarding anything please use the Contact Me submission form, email or call.

Important Class Websites for Students and Parents/Guardians

- Phone: 837-7420 ext. 241
- Email: cball@bigfork.k12.mt.us or cball@bfsd38.org
- Class Website: cballengish.weebly.com
- Remind: a text messaging service where the teacher can send message reminders/alerts
- Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/cballenglishmt
- Twitter: twitter.com/@cballengish
- AOL Help Chat: www.aol.com username: chucktwelve hour restrictions apply
- Google Drive: most assignments will be due on the school Google Drive and Google Classroom account

Students and parents/guardians, be sure to review each of the sections above. If you have any questions regarding anything on this syllabus, please email me at cball@bfsd38.org, or feel free to call the school to speak with me (837-7420 ext. 241) by the end of the first week.

Note that anyone can sign up for text message reminders for this class by creating an account and joining this course with the REMIND app (available on the app store) and website (www.remind.com).

Course Code: @4ea67

Once both students and parents/guardians have read, reviewed and approved the syllabus, both the student and one parent/guardian must sign the attached signature sheet and turn it into Ms. Ball by the end of week 1 for full credit. This will be the first grade in the gradebook and it is worth 25 points. If it is turned in after week one, it will drop to ½ credit (12.5 points).

ALL STUDENTS MUST TURN IN A SIGNED SYLLABUS SHEET.
KEEP THIS SYLLABUS FOR YOUR RECORDS.

**2016-2017 ~ Junior English
Outdoor Literature ~ Ms. Ball
Syllabus Signature Sheet**

I have read the policies and expectations for the Junior English class with Ms. Ball and understand them. If I choose not to meet these expectations, I am willing to accept the consequences.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian: If needed, what is the most preferred way to contact you regarding your student?

Email (please provide) _____

Phone Call (please provide) _____

Note home with student

Letter mailed home