

Urban Science Academy Humanities 4 Syllabus

Teachers: Ms. Peet & Ms. Callahan

Contact information: If you have any questions or concerns the best way to contact us is by email: lingse@gmail.com & bostralia@yahoo.com

We are also available through the USA main office number at: (617) 635-8930. Please leave a message with Ms. Giblin, the school secretary, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Required Materials: Students are expected to have a Notebook/ 3 Ring Binder with 4 divider tabs, pens/pencils, and a USB flash drive for saving work

Course Description: Humanities is a subject that combines the study of history, literature, writing, art and philosophy. By combining these subjects under the heading of “Humanities” we will be able to create connections among these diverse disciplines. Humanities 4 will focus on World History from the 1700’s to present day. We will be reading literature from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, which will foster an appreciation for different cultures, societies and values. Throughout the year, our class will explore the following essential questions: ***HOW DO MY VALUES RELATE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD? WHAT IS A REVOLUTION? HOW DOES INEQUALITY CREATE BOTH THE NEED FOR A SOCIAL CONTRACT AND THE CONDITIONS FOR REVOLUTION? IS HUMAN NATURE INNATELY GOOD OR EVIL? WHAT ARE THE CAUSES AND LEGACIES OF COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM?***

History & Major Texts/ Literature Covered:

- ✓ The French Revolution (1789-1799); *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
- ✓ The Chinese and Japanese Revolutions (1911-1950’s); *The Rape of Nanking* by Iris Chang and excerpts from *The Good Man of Nanking*
- ✓ Imperialism and Colonialism in Africa (1700’s-present), Gandhi/ India Unit; *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and Book Club on *Kaffir Boy* by Mark Mathabane
- ✓ The Dominican Revolution, the Trujillo Era (1930-1961); *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez
- ✓ Other relevant textbook chapters, articles, films and current events will be added as the year goes on

Classroom & Community Rules*

- 1) RESPECT your teacher, your classmates, your environment and yourself
- 2) BE PREPARED with a pen/pencil & a binder/ notebook
- 3) BE ON TIME EVERY DAY
- 4) FOLLOW all school-wide policies (i.e. No hats, cell phones, food in class, electronics, etc—cell phones will be confiscated until the end of class or given to Mr. Hilliard)

***Refusal to comply with any of these rules will result in consequences, such as a detention, a call home, being sent out of the room, or a meeting with Mr. Hilliard.**

Grading Policy

The philosophy of the Humanities Department is to hold high expectations for all students, while at the same time ensuring that each student gets the necessary support to succeed. However, the responsibility for success ultimately lies in the effort that each student puts forth. *How you approach your education is a good indicator of how successful you will be in life, so make school your first priority!* We expect students to see us after school or after class if they need make-up work or extra help. The breakdown for grades in this class is:

- **PARTICIPATION: 15%**
 - **NOTEBOOK: 15%**
 - **HOMEWORK & CLASS WORK: 20%**
 - **PAPERS/ ESSAYS/ TESTS: 35%**
 - **QUIZZES: 15%** _____
 - TOTAL = 100%**
- **Policies for Late Work:**
 - **Essay grade** will be reduced by 1/3 for each day it is late (Example: a B+ goes down to a B after 1 day).
 - **Homework** cannot be turned in late unless you have an excused absence on the day it was due, in which case you have the number of days you were absent to complete the assignment (for example, if you were absent 3 days in a row, you have 3 school days to complete the missed work). If you have an illness or a family emergency, I need a note from your doctor, parent/guardian, or the main office before I can give you an extension.
 - **Quizzes or Tests** must be made-up after school or during advisory within a week of when the quiz/test was given.
 - **NO late work will be accepted during the last week of each term!**

Other Policies

- **Tardiness:** If you are not in class when the bell rings, you are considered late.
 - If you are late with a pass: leave your pass on the teacher's desk and quietly find your seat without disturbing others.
 - If you are late without a pass: serve a 15 minute detention (1:45-2:00pm) in room 101 on the day you were late. Skipping a detention will result in a notice to Mr. Hilliard and a possible suspension.
 - If you are repeatedly late (more than 2 times per term), you will receive a phone call home. Being late will negatively affect your participation grade (see below).

- **Participation Points:**
 - You can **earn 1 point** for each of the following:
 - **Being on time and completing your Do Now right away**
 - **Being prepared with pen/ pencil and notebook/ binder**
 - **Participating appropriately during class (i.e. raising your hand before speaking)****
 - You will **lose 1 point** for the following:
 - **Breaking any of the classroom and community rules (i.e. having your cell phone out, making fun of a classmate, being uncooperative with your teacher, talking back in a disrespectful way, etc.—you get the picture)**

***The Bad Day Rule: if you are having a bad day and you don't feel like participating, please tell me before class starts and I won't deduct points (just remember not to abuse this rule and have a "bad day" everyday)*

- **Bathroom use:** One person at a time may use the bathroom, but NOT during the first or last ten minutes of the period.

What can parents do?

- Check Snapgrades (<https://snapgrades.net/login>) regularly for updates on grades and progress reports, which will be sent home with students every 2 weeks
- Be sure your son/ daughter is prepared with class materials & homework

By signing this syllabus, I am showing that I understand it, will follow the rules and policies in it, and agree to be held accountable for my actions.

Student name (Print): _____ Student signature: _____

Parent/ guardian name & signature: _____