

7th Grade Humanities Language Arts Syllabus

Friendswood Junior High

Mrs. Ferro

The Humanities program at Friendswood Junior High maintains the Pre-Advanced Placement standards of dedication to equity and excellence for the gifted and talented students, in addition to focusing more intently on leadership, research, public speaking, and higher order thinking skills

In order to accomplish the Pre-AP goals, students are expected to be functioning on grade level in regards to writing and reading skills. Basic remediation will not be part of the curriculum. Students must be motivated to create exemplary products within the timeframe given.

The Humanities Language Arts course for FJH students will emphasize the following:

- Literature written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts
- A wide ranging vocabulary used appropriately and effectively
- Grammar and Mechanics
- A logical organization for writing pieces, enhanced by specific techniques to increase coherence, such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis
- Pre-AP Strategies
- Research and Presentation Skills

Standard Classroom Policies & Procedures:

Silent Reading

Students are required to bring a library book (or books from home) to class **every day**. Due to time constraints, students will be held accountable for silent reading at home for various assignments throughout the year. Students will be required to complete a Silent Reading Activity (SRA) outside of class for one book each nine weeks.

Portfolios

Students will keep a writing portfolio, which will be checked at any given time during each nine weeks. Place any essay in the portfolio, write the title on the table of contents, and earn any easy 'A'!

Blogging

All Humanities students will be required to blog each nine weeks. Requirements will be handed out at the beginning of each nine weeks. Any students without Internet access at home will be able to blog during library time or tutorials. Blogging is required and will be a test grade each nine weeks.

Grading System/Late Work

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| Major grades (major writings, projects, tests) | 40% |
| Quizzes (vocabulary, grammar, etc.) | 30% |
| Daily work (class work, homework) | 30% |

Retests will not be given for failing test/quiz grades.

Semester exams (December and May) will count as 10% of the semester average.

The late work policy will be as follows: one day late will deduct 50 points off the earned grade. After the second day, the work will not be accepted. Note: ANY assignment that has been given a due date of more than one week in advance will not be accepted late, even due to absences or illness. When this is the case, students must make arrangements to have the work turned in to the office/teacher or emailed (as an attachment) to the teacher by 3:40 P.M. the afternoon when due.

Students in the Humanities program must maintain at least an 80 average to remain in the program.

Monitoring Grades

Parents are encouraged to check student grades on-line through our district's website on a weekly basis. In order to foster independence in our students, if a question arises regarding a particular grade, communication between the parent and student should be the first step, rather than bypassing the student and initially contacting the teacher.

Absences/Make-up Work

When students are absent, it is their responsibility to ask for missing assignments. Students may come in before or after school, or during tutorials to make-up missing quizzes or tests. This needs to be scheduled *before* arriving at school for make-up assignments. A student has as many days to make up work as absent with a maximum of five days. Otherwise, no credit will be given for the assignment in question. Work that was assigned, prior to the student's absence is due upon return to school.

State law requires that a student be in attendance at least 90% of the time that a class is offered. If a student does not meet the attendance requirement, credit will be denied. Every 3 tardies that a student accrues to a class will be recorded as an absence when determining final exemptions and denial of credit. Students who are more than 10 minutes late to any one class will be considered absent.

Tutorials

Tutorials will be held every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:00-8:25.

Supplies

There are several items that are required for the Humanities class each day: FJH organizer, library book, notebook paper, a 5 subject spiral notebook to be used for journaling and notes, writing utensils, highlighters, Post-it style notes, and a Humanities binder. Some days additional supplies will be needed: orange vocabulary book, index cards, or other supplies requested by the teacher. You will have advanced notice when these supplies are needed in class. Coming to class without all required supplies will result in a 30-minute detention. Being unprepared for class hinders the learning environment for the individual, as well as for the rest of the class.

Contact Information

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<http://www.teacherweb.com/TX/FriendswoodJrHigh/NicoleFerro/t.stm>

Student, Parent, and Teacher Responsibilities:

- **Student**---I agree to organize my time and efforts to successfully complete the Seventh Grade Humanities course. I will utilize my teacher's TeacherWeb page to check class and homework assignments and receive NewsFlash updates. I will notify the teacher immediately if I fall behind in class readings or assignments. I understand that this class is a challenge and accept the fact that perfection is not expected, nor should it be expected.
- **Parent**---I agree to be familiar with the attached course description and to help my son/daughter organize study time in support of class assignments. I will sign up for the LA teacher's NewsFlash, and I will check the teacher's TeacherWeb page regularly. I will notify the teacher immediately following discussion with my child of any concerns that I have relating to the Humanities class or my child's progress. I understand that this class is a challenge and accept the fact that my child may not excel on every assignment.
- **Teacher**---I agree to teach the Humanities course in compliance with the district's requirements. I will keep my TeacherWeb page updated with assignments and handouts. Students and parents will be advised when work is not adequate. Student progress will be reported through the on-line grade system, the normal progress report each nine weeks, and the report card cycle.

I have read the course syllabus and understand my role in the success of this course. I have also taken the time to sign up for my teacher's NewsFlash.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____

Teacher signature _____

Please return this page with appropriate signatures.