**Course Title: ERWC**  **Canyon Hills High School 2024-2025 Course Syllabus**

**(Expository Reading and Writing Course)**

**Teacher:** Paul Runge **Contact:** prunge@sandi.net

**Runge’s Office Hours:** After school by arrangement **Phone:** School: (619) 605-8100 X 2219

**Course Description:** This course is designed to cultivate reading and writing skills that are aligned with the California State Standards/Critical Concepts for grade 12 while preparing students for college-level classes. Students in this course read a wide variety of challenging texts in the form of novels, articles, essays, and other types of literature, and will complete projects, presentations, discussions, and writing assignments of various lengths to demonstrate their knowledge.

**Textbook(s):** The novels *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer and excerpts of *1984* by George Orwell will be provided to students, as well as copies of short pieces, such as poetry, short stories, articles, and essays from The ERWC Student Reader. The class is not limited to these texts and students will be expected to read independently, as well as with the whole class. ***Please note that all of the books borrowed from the library are your responsibility.***

***Some of these texts deal with topics in a mature manner.*** Examples of these topics may include: freedom, truth, race, social justice, socio-economic disadvantage, technology, and global citizenship. This course serves to expose students to literary works appropriate for deeper thinking about “real-world” concepts and questions. Please know that each text will be taught in a manner that is appropriate and sensitive to the age and maturity of the 12th-grade student while preparing them for higher level studies.

**Suggested Supplies/Materials:**

**The following are suggested for organization purposes...**

1. A laptop to access Google Classroom and ERWC assignments and materials posted there
2. Pens with dark ink; pencils; a highlighter; and lined paper
3. A monthly calendar for recording assignments (planner?)

**Academic Honesty: All students are expected to be honest about their own work**. Any breeches to academic honesty (such as plagiarism) will result in one or more of the following:

* A zero for the assignment;
* A negative impact to citizenship and/or academic scores;
* A phone call to parents/guardians;
* A teacher/student conference;
* A parent/counselor conference;
* A referral;
* Other consequences determined by the school administration.

**Class Policies:** in-class meetings follow the same policies as online meetings. ***Be polite. Be on time to class meetings. Follow class norms. Come prepared and dressed appropriately. Work hard. Follow school policies and classroom policies. Remain seated until the final bell rings. Use common sense.***

We are here to learn. If classroom procedures are not followed, your citizenship grade will be lowered and other consequences will be given out according to the school’s policies.

**Electronics Policy:** Technology is a useful resource in many situations; however, electronic devices can distract you in the classroom setting! In this class, **avoid using electronics other than your class computer** unless it is a part of the activity. **Please turn off other devices before class meetings begin.**

**Advise me of emergencies before class** **begins.**

**Academic Grading Policy:** Check Google Classroom **daily** for assignment links, material, and instruction. Grades are posted in PowerSchool GradeBook frequently. You will receive two progress reports on 10/2 and 11/13, both before Semester 1 (1/19), and two progress reports on 3/4 and 4/22 before the end of the senior school year. There are 2 assignment groups that account for differing portions of the final grade.

 **Writing drafts, “homework”, and some multiple-day assignments 30%**

 **Tests, Quizzes, End of unit projects, presentations, essays, and final assessments   70%**

Your final grade will be based on the following grading scale used to determine the level of mastery of standards:

                                                                     A      90-100%

                                                                     B      80-89%

                                                                     C      70-79%

                                                                     D      60-69%

                                                                     F      59% and below

Every assignment will be worth a certain amount of points and weighted accordingly. Class assignments and homework are typically worth 2-30 points each, while most essays and projects are worth 30-100 points each. Grades are cumulative and will be continuously posted on PowerSchool. Please check regularly to see your progress. **Extra credit assignments will not be given. Please don’t ask. Complete/redo all standards-based assignments as they are assigned/returned.**

>> ***Work is graded on QUALITY rather than completion.*** It is **expected that you complete all of your work, all of the time.** Your work will be scored based on what degree you have mastered the standards, how well it is written, and the depth of insight and thought, not merely on the fact that it is completed. That being said, incomplete work usually reflects less effort and quality than complete work.

>> ***Your work must be neat***. If I can’t read it, I’m not going to grade it. (Not a problem with typed work!)

>> ***You may revise a writing assignment/end of unit work if you would like to revise your original work, and I will re-grade it, provided that the original work was turned in on time.*** The new grade will replace the old grade. The redo may earn up to 100% of the points possible for the assignment.

**Make-up/Late Work Policy:** Your attendance is extremely important. ***It is your responsibility to attend class meetings daily and on time in order to ensure your success.*** If you have an excused absence, such as an illness, family emergency, or a religious holiday, I will accept the work that you missed as “on-time” as long as you turn it in within the number of days that were excused. After that time, work is considered late. Please note that ***it is your responsibility to find out what work (class work AND homework) was missed (Check Google Classroom). If work is not made up, a zero will be placed in the grade book for the assignment.***

***If an absence is unexcused, the classwork cannot be made up, and no late work or redos will be accepted for the work that was due on the day of the absence.*** ***This does not apply to end of unit writings/projects.*** Make sure a parent/guardian calls in to the school to excuse your absence within 5 days of the absence. (Communication is key!)

Late work: Class work and homework will not be accepted after grades have been entered for that assignment or we have reviewed the work as a class. No late work will be accepted after a unit is completed, except for final papers/projects. Until you turn in your work, and it is graded, the grade will be a zero, so you must be proactive about turning in your work! **Late assessments will not have the opportunity to be redone for a higher grade.**

PowerSchool Gradebook will be updated regularly, so you and your parents are encouraged to review grades together and verify that the attendance information is accurate. If you see any discrepancies in grades, please notify me as soon as possible. Mistakes sometimes happen.

**Tutoring and Office Hours: *I am available for you if you need help!*** I expect to be in the classroom at lunch for questions or help, after school by arrangement, and I often remain on/check email throughout the day and night, so do not hesitate to ask me questions or seek help! Advocate for yourself.

**Citizenship Rubric**: Citizenship will be evaluated as follows:

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| EXCELLENT**E** | * Participation is constructive and elevates the academic environment of the class.
* All absences are excused. Two or fewer tardies.
* Consistently models exceptional behavior and respect for teachers and students.
* Independently prepares for and is engaged in class activities.
* **Uses technology to enhance learning, according to teacher policy and permission**.
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| Meets Citizenship Standards**M** | * Participates occasionally; does not distract from the academic environment of the class.
* No more than one unexcused absence. Four or fewer tardies.
* Demonstrates compliant behavior towards teachers and students.
* Prepares for and engages in class activities, with teacher prompting.
* **Usually uses technology appropriately, according to teacher policy and permission**.
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| NEEDS IMPROVEMENT**I** | * Seldom participate, or distracts from the academic environment of the class.
* No more than two unexcused absences. Five or fewer tardies.
* Sometimes demonstrates disrespectful behavior towards teachers and/or students.
* Often unprepared for and disengaged from class activities.
* **Uses technology inappropriately, not adhering to teacher policy. (4 infractions)**
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| UNSATISFACTORY**U** | * Does not participate, or distracts from the academic environment of the class.
* Three or more unexcused absences. Six or more tardies.
* Frequently demonstrates disrespectful behavior towards teachers and/or students.
* Unprepared for and disengaged from class activities.
* **Use of technology distracts from academic environment. (5+ infractions)**
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Seniors need a cumulative GPA of 2.0 in both scholarship and citizenship to walk in graduation.