



EXPO II: course syllabus

Mrs. Baladez

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Room 601

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course meets UC/CSU and District graduation requirements for English. Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) engages students in the discovery of who they are as persons, the realization of the ways in which they can participate in society, and their development as critical consumers and effective communicators within society. The course utilizes instructional modules to meet rigorous, college preparatory learning goals in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for all students while promoting student interest and motivation. Employing a rhetorical, inquiry-based approach that fosters critical thinking, student agency, and metacognition, the course includes full-length modules drawn from five categories: 1) American foundational documents; 2) American drama; 3) full-length books; 4) research; and 5) contemporary issues. In addition, the course includes concept mini-modules that address transferable skills applicable to conceptual development and practice across all modules. The core structure of all the modules— the Assignment Template—progresses along an “arc” from reading rhetorically (preparing to read, reading purposefully, and questioning the text) to preparing to respond (discovering what you think) to writing rhetorically (composing a draft, revising rhetorically, and editing). By the end of the course, students will have read a range of literary and nonfiction text genres and produced several culminating projects, including academic essays, research reports, creative writing and performances, and multimedia presentations, from initial draft to final revision and editing.

MATERIALS

Every student is responsible for bringing his/her own supplies to school *every day* (or to have at home to complete unfinished class-work). The following is a list of recommended materials in order to find success in this course:

- 3-Ring Binder with EXPO 11 Folder/Divider
- 3x3 Blank Post-it Notes (3 pack)
- Pencils and Erasers
- Dry Erase Markers
- College Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
- Multi-Colored Highlighters
- Washable Markers (Standard and Thin)
- Colored Pencils
- Ball Point Pens (blue or black)

TECHNOLOGY

Technology usage, production, and proficiency is a key component of our comprehensive English Language Arts program. With this 21st Century approach to learning, students will have access to school-issued Chromebooks to use as an instructional tool in the classroom. Students will be expected to utilize technology daily to access classwork, submit assignments, research, and word-process. Unauthorized use of personal devices (cellphones, tablets, headphones/earbuds) in class may result in a referral and device confiscation, so all students are expected to silence and store their personal devices for the entire class period. Students bring devices at their own risk; Murrieta Valley High School is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged property.

Students will be expected to access technology (including the internet) outside of class time to reference and print online resources and materials, research, word-process writing pieces, print documents, access course content and grades, submit assignments, and more.

COURSE BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to **Do Everything the R.I.T.E Way, the Nighthawk Way** in the classroom and on campus.

Respect

- Come to class every day, on time, and prepared to learn
- Listen attentively while Mrs. Baladez is speaking
- Stay focused, complete assignments, and turn in all work on time
- Value the opinions of others and treat people with kindness
- Use appropriate language

Integrity

- Respond appropriately when given directions
- Stay positive and set a good example for others
- Take responsibility for your actions
- Show academic honesty
- Use materials for their intended purpose

Teamwork

- Work collaboratively and cooperatively with others
- Take turns to speak, quietly listening when others are speaking
- Keep hands, feet, body, and personal objects to yourself at all times
- Help create a welcoming, accepting environment
- As a group, contribute ideas and manage workload equally

Excellence

- Ask clarifying questions and communicate your needs
- Manage your time effectively
- Utilize independent problem-solving techniques
- Commit to always give your best and produce high-quality work
- Be goal-oriented and always strive for more

CONSEQUENCES

Inability to adhere to course expectations will result in the following consequences:

- **1st Offense:** Dialogue between teacher and student with clarified expectations
- **2nd Offense:** Loss of time or privileges and/or parent communication
- **3rd Offense:** Parent communication, detention or low-level referral, establish plan for improvement
- **4th Offense:** Parent communication, OCI, or office referral

Depending on the severity of the infraction, consequences may vary and are up to the teacher's discretion.

Please remember that **academic integrity** is essential for success in this course. Students who complete assignments and give their work to others or students who reproduce and submit other students' work will **both** receive consequences for academic dishonesty. Consequences include receiving a zero on the assignment without the ability to make up lost points, parent communication, and an office referral.

Cell phone use during class will result in a referral; consequences according to the MVHS Cell Phone Policy are stated below.

- **1st Referral:** Phone confiscated until the end of the school day, warning
- **2nd Referral:** Phone confiscated, phone call home, morning detention
- **3rd Referral:** Phone confiscated (parent pick-up required), phone call home, morning detention, OCI for remainder of class period
- **4th+ Referral:** Same consequences as a 3rd referral, but additional OCI or suspension can be implemented due to defiant behavior

GRADING

All grades will be determined using the following grading scale: 90–100% (A), 80–89% (B), 70–79% (C), 60–69% (D), 0–59% (F). The following weighted categories will be used to make up every student's grade: Writing: 30%, Reading: 30%, Speaking & Listening: 20%, Language: 20%.

Handwritten submitted work should be neat and legible, written in pencil (unless otherwise specified), on smooth (no tears, crumples, folds, or spiral edges) college-ruled paper. The majority of assignments will need to be word-processed using Microsoft Office 365 and submitted to Canvas. Processed writing pieces should be typed using MLA format and submitted to Turnitin.com.

In class, students will work independently and in cooperative learning groups. Any unfinished classwork is then considered homework (in addition to any other homework assigned), due the following class period. In order to receive full credit, work must be submitted by the specified deadline. Late work will be accepted up to **one calendar day** past the due date, but will only receive half credit. Please communicate with Mrs. Baladez ahead of time if you know that you won't be able to submit an assignment by the deadline. No credit will be given if work is not turned in or if work is submitted after the one day grace period. All assignments will be posted on Canvas for student reference. **There will be no opportunities to receive extra credit.**

Students will be graded on their performance—their ability to show proficiency in meeting the grade level standards—not solely on participation or work completion.

ABSENCES

If students are absent, they are expected to check Canvas to find out what they missed. It is the student's responsibility to catch-up (read, take notes, etc.) and make up any missed assignments so they are ready to continue with the coursework the following class period. All make-up work must be submitted by the next class following the absence, in order to receive full credit. If a student is absent on the day something is due, it is still the student's responsibility to submit the assignment electronically by the due date (if additional time is needed, the student must communicate with Mrs. Baladez to arrange a plan for submission). If students are absent on the day of a test or quiz, they are responsible for making up that assessment before or after school, during lunch or Office Hours (by appointment only) within one calendar week from the absence; make-ups will not be offered past the one-week deadline.

POLICIES

At school, students are expected to use the bathroom before school, during passing periods, break, and lunch. However, in the case that students need to use the restroom during class time, they may sign out, take a pass, and go. A limited number of students will be permitted to go each period and if the privilege is abused, students may not be allowed to use the restroom during class time. Students may have bottles of water in class, but no other food or drink is permitted (including gum). Students will not be able to leave during class time to get a drink of water.

If students show academic dishonesty by plagiarizing someone else's work (which includes using a source without citing it) or by giving their work for another student to copy, they will receive a zero on the assignment without the ability to make up the lost credit. Students will submit some written work through Turnitin.com, which generates a Similarity Report based on the uniqueness of the writing. If students submit work with a high Similarity Index with excessive identified similarities, they may receive a zero on the assignment without the ability to make up the lost credit. It is very important that students work independently to submit their own original work.

Communication is key! Mrs. Baladez communicates best via email and will always work to respond to messages in a timely fashion. Office Hours is a great opportunity to speak with Mrs. Baladez one-on-one or to receive additional help. Grades will be updated regularly on Aeries, Canvas agenda, assignments, and scores on individual assignments will also be up-to-date. Please be sure to download the Aeries app and the Canvas app (there is one for students and different one for parents) to stay in contact. Mrs. Baladez will always send mass communication through "Parent Square." Please take advantage of the many opportunities to maintain a connection between home and school.



SYLLABUS AGREEMENT

MRS. BALADEZ'S EXPO II CLASS

form

After reading the syllabus with a parent/guardian, click the link below (or scan the QR Code with your device) to access a Syllabus Agreement form. By completing the form, you are acknowledging that you and your parent/guardian have read and understood the course policies and expectations.



[Syllabus Agreement Form](#)