



8th Grade Research Seminar (028)

2014-2015

Course Description:

This course is designed to supplement and strengthen 8th grade students' reading, writing, and research skills. Students explore a variety of reading materials such as novels, informational articles, short stories, and plays used to expand reading skills, comprehension, and interest. This course also seeks to establish students' independent reading strategies that they can utilize in their content-area classes as well as in test-taking environments. Students will demonstrate these skills and strategies by creating literary analysis based on the reading materials. In addition, they will cite textual evidence to support their analysis. Another main component of this course is demonstrating their knowledge of research skills by completing various papers, projects, and assignments based on the content of the reading materials.

Course Content:

1. Fiction and Non-fiction
 - a. Novels
 - b. Articles
 - c. Short stories
 - d. Plays/Drama
2. Research and Presentation Skills
3. Metacognitive and Comprehension Activities
4. Test-taking Strategies
5. Shared Inquiry Discussion

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

1. All novels read in class will be provided at the onset of the unit, and will remain in the classroom.

Possible novel selections include:

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Jennifer Choldenko
The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen
The House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton
The Miracle Worker by William Gibson
The Pigman by Paul Zindel

2. Short Stories

Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voice, Timeless Themes
Great Books Foundation

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to bring the following materials to class each day:

- A three ring binder (used for Reading only)
- Notebook Paper
- Pocket Folder
- Pens/Pencils
- Highlighter
- Agenda
- While not required, a flash drive is recommended so students can easily transport their documents between school and home.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Midterm	10%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	10%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

No summer reading is required for this course.