

**MVLA**  
**2019-2020**  
**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

**Course Title:** Composition and World Literature

**School:** Mountain View High School

**UC/CSU requirement:** Required, Subject B

**Textbook and/or other learning resources:**

*Bless Me, Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya

*Into the Wild*, Jon Krakauer

*The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini

Nonfiction essays, short stories, non fiction texts, and independent reading

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

The course is designed so that students will become proficient in the Common Core State Standards grades 9 and 10.

The goal of the course is to prepare college-bound sophomores for the literacy demands of higher education. Through a sequence of rigorous instructional units, students in this yearlong course develop advanced proficiencies in informational, narrative, and argumentative reading and writing as well as speaking and listening. The course presents a process for helping students read, comprehend, and respond to both informational and literary texts.

**Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)):** To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

Semester letter grades will be determined from formal assessments of a student's proficiency in the following subject area standards:

- Writing- Summative: 30%
- Reading- Summative:30%
- Listening and Speaking: 30%
- Work Habits: 10%

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Because the interest and readiness of students in this class will vary, the following assignments represent a sample of what students will produce.

- Brief presentations in which students communicate orally their arguments/perspectives concerning topics or sources under investigation while acknowledging valid counter arguments.

- Socratic Seminars that demonstrates students' abilities to participate in an academic, formal discussion.
- Quizzes that assess students' reading comprehension and ability to communicate clearly and concisely the arguments found in academic sources.
- Critical essays that demonstrate students' ability to interpret an author's arguments, participate in the conversation as a contributor, and communicate in an academic manner.
- Rhetorical analyses that demonstrate a student's ability to recognize an author's use of devices and strategies to communicate ideas and arguments.
- Style analyses that demonstrate students' ability to identify how writers create mood and tone to reinforce theme, purpose and to arouse sympathy.
- Personal narratives that demonstrate self-knowledge.
- Reading logs and reflective writings that demonstrate a student's capacity for empathy and willingness to learn about issues, people and events beyond yourself.
- Projects that allow students to use their particular skills, talents and interests to demonstrate progress toward understanding key concepts.

Rubrics or scoring guides will explain proficiency criteria for all assignments. Although students will receive a letter grade at the end of every quarter, only semester grades appear on transcripts. 1st and 3rd quarter grades are not on a student's permanent record, nor are they averaged with grades from 2nd or 4th quarters. Student learning is assessed over the entire semester.

### 3. Grading scales:

|                 |         |     |
|-----------------|---------|-----|
| ADVANCED        | 90-100% | (A) |
| PROFICIENT      | 80-89%  | (B) |
| BASIC           | 70-79%  | (C) |
| BELOW BASIC     | 60-69%  | (D) |
| FAR BELOW BASIC | 50-59%  | (F) |

### 4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):

Students can expect approximately 40 minutes (sometimes more) of homework 4 nights a week. Homework may include journal writing, essay assignments, reading, or preparation for class activities. Long-term projects will also be assigned. Homework assigned is due the following class meeting, unless otherwise noted.

### 5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):

Students will be allowed one full day for each day not in class to complete all assignments and tests missed during the excused absence. Full credit will be issued according to the teacher's assessment. The teacher shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence. **As with any absence, the student must stay up to date with class assignments and assessments. Students must check Google Classroom/Calendars in order to stay current with content and curriculum.**

6. Academic integrity violation practices ([MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):

The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Examples of cheating include: anyone who copies another's work or turns in someone else's ideas as his or her own, collaboration with another student or students could be considered cheating if students are expected to complete an assignment independently, copying homework, allowing someone else to copy your work, plagiarism, copying or allowing others to copy from another's exam, improperly obtaining and/or using tests, questions, or answer keys, using unauthorized notes/materials or electronic equipment (calculators, cell phones, etc.), with greater access to the Internet and electronic sources, students need to be very clear about their responsibilities in using these tools with integrity. Check with your teachers if you are unsure or unclear about his/her expectations regarding the use of the Internet.

7. Late work practices:

- a. **Prearranged:** Students missing class due to a school-related activity (including college visits) are expected to submit all work prior to the absence.
- b. **Unexcused:** The deadlines for submitting late work will be before the end of each quarter (see below). Students must submit major missing assignments before this deadline or their work will not be considered. Minor assessment will not be considered if they are unexcused.
  - i. First Quarter Deadline: October 11
  - ii. Second Quarter Deadline: December 13
  - iii. Third Quarter Deadline: March 13
  - iv. Fourth Quarter Deadline: May 31
- c. **Excused:** Late assignments due to illness or other emergencies should be submitted to the teacher directly within two working days of the student's return to school. If the student misses a quiz or test, that student must commit to a make up date upon return. Students are responsible for arranging this date with the teacher.

8. Revision practices:

Students are encouraged to revise writing and reading assessments to demonstrate proficiency on assessed standards. Revision time frame varies depending on the assignment. In order to submit revisions students **MUST** meet with teacher to discuss revision and plan for final submission.

9. Extra credit practices: None

10. Additional grading practices:

Semester Final Exam: All students will complete common, standards-based assessments each semester. These assessments will be based on classroom activities and formative assessments.

**Instructors' email addresses:**

Lisa Gallo: [lisa.gallo@mvla.net](mailto:lisa.gallo@mvla.net)  
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### **Additional information:**

#### **General Expectations**

Students will demonstrate social decorum, manners, and behaviors generally expected in a formal academic environment. Students are expected to respect others as well as the classroom. Any behavior that diminishes the learning of any student or the ability of the teacher to teach will not be tolerated. As a general guideline, misbehavior will be dealt with as follows: 1) conference with student 2) email to parent or guardian 3) referral to the office. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared each day with homework and all required materials. Students are expected to collaborate with and help each other respectfully.

#### **ABSENCES**

An “unexcused absence” is an absence in excess of a 30-minute period occurring in a given class. Students may not exceed 14 unexcused absences across their entire schedule. A full day, unexcused absence counts as 5, 6 or 7 absences depending on how many classes a student carries toward the total of 14. On the 15th unexcused absence, students may be referred to an alternative educational program/site pursuant to the District’s involuntary transfer policy (AR/OP 5113).

#### **TARDIES**

Students may not exceed 19 unexcused tardies across their entire schedule. An unexcused tardy is an absence from class from when the bell rings until up to 30 minutes of a class period. At the 15th unexcused tardy, there will be a mandatory parent conference with the student’s Assistant Principal. This conference will be scheduled to occur the morning after the family is contacted by the school. At the student/parent conference, consequences for continued tardiness are discussed and the student is assigned to Saturday School. An attendance contract will also be signed at this meeting. Failure to attend Saturday School may result in a transfer to an alternative educational program/site.

#### **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Teachers are available for conferences throughout the year. Please send an email with PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE REQUEST in the subject line.

#### **DEVICES**

Cell phones will be turned off and put away BEFORE students enter the classroom. Students will not use cell phone during class UNLESS requested to do so by the teacher.

Students will use all devices strictly for academic purposes. Students will NOT use devices for any activities other than those requested by the teacher.

Playing games, texting, emailing, and otherwise using the internet for anything not specifically in an academic pursuit is an act of defiance.