

Fantasy / Horror / Science Fiction – Mr. Cook

Classroom Expectations

Contact Information

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Mission Statement

The English department will collaborate with students to provide worthwhile, engaging experiences in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. These necessary skills foster critical thinking and enhance a student's overall educational experience.

Major Topics:

Course Descriptions – This class is designed to allow students to delve into the nature of literature in the fantasy, horror, and science fiction genres. We will focus on examining the nature these types of literature and exploring their role in our understanding of the human condition.

Goals – By the end of the year, students will be able to

- Analyze a variety of texts for purpose, content, effect, and author's craft.
- Develop a variety of strategies for critical thinking, analyzing, and presentation of original ideas
- Create original documents, speeches, presentations, and other examples of their learning.

Major Topics -

- Three major works throughout the semester, including *The Hobbit*, *Dune*, and *World War Z*.
- Selected short stories, essays, and literary criticism
- Writing – in class essays, narrative writing, journals
- Presentations, projects, and group work

Class Materials

Please be prepared for class every day. You should have the following items with you in class every day:

- A dark blue or black pen AND pencil (NOTE: only these colors are acceptable)
- A folder or binder dedicated specifically for English
- Composition or spiral notebook specifically for notes in class
- Any novels, books, or handouts that we use throughout the semester
- LCHS Assignment notebook and school ID.

Classroom Activities and Grades

Your grade in this class is based on the following: class participation, class preparedness, tests and quizzes (including pop quizzes), daily assignments, major papers and projects, journals, and other possible activities. **Grading is cumulative for the semester.** There will be three progress reports to let you and your parents know how you are doing. It is very important for you to keep all your graded work for the semester. Please use Infinite Campus to track your grade results.

Assessments (papers, projects, tests, presentations)	45%
Homework/Classwork (reading checks, participation, etc.)	40%
Final Exam (Essay)	15%

Tardiness

Punctuality is necessary so that we can begin class quickly. Please make every effort to get to class on time. Your second tardy will result in a detention. Refer to the student handbook for more information.

Absences

Regular attendance is an important element of this class. You cannot learn if you are not here. When a legitimate absence occurs, it is your responsibility to get the make up work from me, find out what you missed, and make arrangements to hand in missing work. You must speak with me the day you return to class in order to receive makeup work. Please read the guidelines for make up work in the student handbook.

- If your absence is unexcused, I cannot accept any work done for or due on that day. This includes tests, papers, and other large assignments.

- If you will be attending a school field trip, you must make arrangements with me **before** the scheduled absence, or you will not be able to make up the work.

Late Work

Keeping up with the work is important to being successful in class. Late work is accepted one day late for 50%. Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless I say otherwise.

- Major typed papers and projects will be accepted late, with a penalty of 10% for every day late. If an assignment is eligible for this exception, it will be indicated on the assignment sheet.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism and any other form of cheating, copying, or academic dishonesty from a peer or another source will result in a “0%” (zero) being awarded to each party involved. The team leader, counselor, or other administration personnel and parents will be involved.

District 117 uses turnitin.com, an anti plagiarism service. All major writing assignments must be submitted to turnitin.com a maximum five days after the due date or a zero percent (0%) will be entered. A separate policy will be available regarding this software.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices, including cell phones, smart phones, tablets, and laptops may only be used with permission. At no times are games, social media, texts, or phone calls acceptable. Electronic devices should be silent and out of sight unless prior approval is obtained. No video or audio recording in the classroom without student and teacher consent.

Allergy Notice

When our curriculum involves the handling and/or consumption of food, staff will notify students and parents/guardians in advance. Accommodations and/or alternative assignments will be made available for students with documented allergies. Please contact the classroom teacher or administration with any questions.

Controversial Materials Statement

As in all areas, parents and guardians are a child’s first and most influential teachers. Parents, guardians, and schools share a common goal: we want students of all ages to be educated in all aspects of their lives. CHSD 117 understands that as a parent or guardian, you have the right to excuse your child from certain topics or curricula. Please review the topics in the various syllabi provided to your child. Each student will be included in learning all content found in each syllabus unless you requested that he/she be opted out during that specific time of learning. If opted out, your student will be provided with an alternative assignment. If you want to opt out your child from a specific topic, please see your child’s teacher or department chair within two weeks of the start of the curriculum.

Policies and Procedures

The LCHS student handbook outlines school wide policies, regulations, procedures, grading scale and discipline. All will be adhered to and upheld in the classroom.

Please see me if you ever have any questions or concerns about the course or coursework. I am here to help you. Please visit my website at www.lakesenglish.com for more information.

I have read the above document and understand the contents.

Student

_____ (Print Name)

_____ (Signature)

Parent/Guardian Signature
