Room: Portable 5 Time: 1st or 6th period

**Student Syllabus/Contract:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Instructor:** | Kyle Smith |
| **Email:\*** | [smithk5@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:smithk5@issaquah.wednet.edu) |
| **Website:** | <https://sites.google.com/a/uw.edu/mr-smith-skyline-hs-ela/> |
| **Office:** | 2409 |
| **Office Hours:** | After school by appointment. |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide a survey of dystopian, or apocalyptic, literature. Students will read, analyze, compare, contrast, and evaluate dystopian texts which explore social and political choices made by individuals and cultures that create a nightmarish world; these narratives serve as warnings against tyranny. While dystopian novels are depressing, there’s “rightness” in reading about a future that’s negative because people are capable of doing awful things—meaning dystopian novels ironically feel honest. The classic dystopian novels and modern dystopian films that we’ll explore are both speculative fiction and science fiction.

**Learning Strategies:**

Small and large group discussion, compare & contrast and syntheses of all the texts, creative writing: emulating the genre, film analysis, and formal literary analysis writing (thesis practice, paragraphs, and a 4-6 page compare and contrast culminating essay).

**Required FICTION** Electronic and print copies are both acceptable.

* Orwell’s *1984* (1949)
* Huxley’s *Brave New World* (1931)
* Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1985)
* Snider’s *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* (2016)

**FILM ANALYSIS—Selected, taking interest into account, from the following list:**

* *12 Monkeys*. Gilliam, 1995.
* *Children of Men*. Cuarón, 2006.
* *Soylent Green.*
* *In Time.* Niccol*, 2011.*
* *Mad Max: Fury Road*. George Miller, 2015.
* *Terms and Conditions May Apply*. Hoback, 2013.
* *The Lobster*. Lanthimos, 2015.

**REQUIRED TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACIES FOR HUMANITIES SUCCESS**

* Access teacher website daily to confirm homework and access assignments and online resources
* Download and use documents from my website (Word, PowerPoint and Excel)
* Use links and family access to take online surveys and quizzes
* Type, print, and electronically submit documents outside of class time
* Use the Skyline library website, turnitin.com, ActivelyLearn.com, and various research databases.

**GRADING**

93 - 100%   A                                               80 - 82%     B-                                     67 - 69%     D+

90 - 92%     A-                                             77 - 79%     C+                                     63 - 66%     D

87 - 89%     B+                                            73 - 76%     C                                        60 - 62%     D-

83 - 86%     B                                               70 - 72%     C-                                      Below         F

**\*\*\*Rounding: To be fair to all students, I do not round grades. There must be a hard cutoff somewhere, and in order assure equity, grades—even at .99—will not be rounded.\*\*\***

**GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Culminating Assessments (Essays, tests, projects)   50%

Participation (Class discussion, exit slips) 15%

Process (In-class work, quizzes, and homework)     25%

Final Exam                                         10%

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

You may **NOT** use cell phones, iPods/music players, or pretty much anything else with an on/off switch in class UNLESS YOU HAVE INDIVIDUAL PERMISSION FROM YOUR TEACHER.  If you use any such devices during class, we will confiscate them and hold them for the remainder of the day.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

While in the classroom, there are three guidelines for conduct that need to be observed.  Of course, these golden rules are broad enough to admit a wide range of interpretation, but just let common sense and goodwill determine your behavior.  **Respect yourself.  Respect others.  Respect the classroom environment.**

During class, I expect you to **conduct yourself as adults**. When you need to use the restroom, simply get up, let me know you’re going, go quickly, and do not make it a constant habit.  However, when class time is over, remember that I dismiss you, not the bell.  You are expected to **remain in your seats until dismissed**.  General misbehavior will be dealt with by a progressive process including warnings, parental contact, and administration referral.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS** By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, please get and bring the following to class:

1. Blue, black, and red pens (at least two of each).

2. Highlighters (at least two).

3. Composition Notebook that is **ONLY** for Dystopian Fiction

4. Assignment book, calendar, or personal planner.

5. *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snider

This book should cost less than $10.

Occasionally you may want various other supplies (colored pencils, construction paper, etc.). On days when you will need these I will either give you advanced warning or supply them for you.

**ABSENCES AND TARDIES**

If you have an excused absence, you will have the same number of days missed for make-up.  Write **“absent” AND THE DATE YOU WERE GONE**on the top of any absent work that you turn in.  Tests are to be made up before or after school by appointment, and the make-up time must be scheduled **immediately** upon your return to school. You will then have **one week** in which to make it up.

Also, it is essential that you arrive in class on time both for your learning and so that you do not disrupt class. Our class will begin at on Skyline’s stated bell schedule, and you are expected to be in your seat at that time and ready for class, not walking in the door, talking to friends, or migrating towards your seat. First and second offences per semester result in a warning.  The third offense results in an after-school detention, and the fourth offense results in a parent call and a referral to the administration.

**PLAGIARISM/CHEATING** **Academic Integrity/Honesty Policy:**

Academic integrity speaks to a student’s commitment and responsibility to pursue scholarship openly and honestly.  It respects the concept that *learning* is the primary purpose of education, secondary to grades and credits.  Academic Dishonesty is defined as any action or attended action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other student. A student shall not attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework (tests, quizzes, assignments, discs, projects, essays) in a manner other than defined as acceptable by each instructor.

Academic Integrity violations are tracked throughout a student’s entire high school career (grades 9 – 12).  Academic Integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

* **Plagiarizing**or submitting any part of another person’s work as representing ones’ own scholarship
* **Distribution/sharing of class assignments or test information** in either written or verbal form to another student without teacher permission
* **Unauthorized Collaboration** – working with others without the specific permission of the instructor on assignments that will be submitted for an individual’s grade.   This applies to in-class or take-home assignments/homework, projects, tests, or labs.
* **Collusion** – supporting the lack of integrity/honesty by another student, as in allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another.  Collusion also includes the use or sharing of identical or highly similar passages of one’s own work, or the work of another, unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
* **Technology Malpractice** – any misuse or abuse of private or public technology in relation to grades or in acquiring an academic advantage, including infractions of the school technology user agreement, language translation websites, cell phone messaging or picture transmission.

**\*\*RETURN THIS PAGE TO SMITH SIGNED BY YOU AND YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN\*\*\***

**Course Content Signatures: 12th Dystopian Fiction 2016-17**

I have read and understand the syllabus and expectations outlined above. If I have any questions I will contact my teacher.

**Student signature**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Student name**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student email**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian signature**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Parents’ names**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent email & phone for teacher notifications**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLAGIARISM/CHEATING**

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*I have read the Academic Integrity/Honest Policy. I understand and agree to honor it in content and in spirit.*

Student’s Name Signature Date

Parent’s Name Signature Date

**Optional Questions for Parents:**

What reading, writing, or public speaking goals do you have for your student this semester?

What should I know about your student to help him or her succeed?