

Hello students and parents,

I hope you are all happy and healthy. This message is to give you guidance and a brief overview of the plan for ENL (essential new learning) and the culmination of the 2020 school year. The style of work and types of activities will be somewhat different than the experience we shared through mid-March, but I am going to do my best to make (keep?) my instruction clear and meaningful. This document is meant to be informative, however this is new ground for all of us, and I will do my best to be flexible to your needs and changes will be made. Santos' letter should take precedent over this one, as she is leading the way on scheduling the remainder of your essay.

Unit Overview:

Santos and I plan on doing 3ish units for the rest of the semester:

1. Finishing Africa Essay 😊
2. History of India, Hinduism, Buddhism
3. Chinese Philosophy/Ancient Wisdom (Confucius, Lao Tzu, Sun Tzu, etc.)

Activities and Assignments:

I believe interpersonal communication and collaboration are essential to education, however I do not want to micromanage students over video chat applications or email—more than is necessary. Distance learning will require effort and engagement from students. If you mindlessly click through PowerPoints you will not succeed or find your time well spent. We all work at our own pace, so I will not be carefully counting 25 minutes per day of work and will do my best to give you a clear picture at the beginning of each week what is expected of you, as well as what extra learning opportunities exist. With that in mind I plan on starting with these major types of activities:

1. Small group oral discussion.
 - a. Recorded via Zoom (or another platform, such as Microsoft Teams) and submitted for a grade.
 - b. 15-20 minutes of discussion.
 - c. Combination of Smith's questions and your own questions.
 - d. Groups of 8 which Smith will assign, at least at the beginning.
2. Online Quizzes.
3. Surveys, short-answers, and other e-tools which compile responses and provide data.
4. Online chat room style discussions.
 - a. Comments on YouTube videos or Tii's discussion tab.
5. Writing
6. Reading, viewing, listening, and research.

Office Hours:

I will be guaranteed* available to respond to questions and concerns between 12:00 and 1:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays via email. I will generally be available most reasonable hours of the day, but I will do my best to respond to *all* concerns and messages those times during the week. If open video chat sessions are required, I will adjust the plan. I also plan on dropping in during Santos' video chats from time to time. If you need specific individual feedback, I am available by appointment.

*One Covid-19 reflection I have is that little in life is truly guaranteed.

Programs, Applications, and Tools:

As of now, I will be primarily using these tools to communicate and post content: email, my website, TurnItIn.com (Tii), the suite of Microsoft tools the district has provided (should be same login as Flexsched), Google's online tools, classmarker.com for quizzes, ActivelyLearn.com, Zoom, and others as needed. I will do my best to keep this concise, simple, and predictable. However, I will need to experiment with some of these platforms. **Your first task is to complete the survey linked on my website.**

Sincerely,

Kyle Smith, M.Ed