English 12

Point Grey Secondary

Ms. Polly Dobie

COURSE OUTLINE 2017-2018

*English 12 is a course that explores critical thought through literature, new media, personal narration, creative expression and discussion.*

*We will be using a variety of texts (novels, short stories, news based texts, advertising, travel literature, memoirs, scientific explanation, debate material and more) to develop both our writing, reading, oral communication and to strengthen our general approach to text and to ideas. Our aim is to strengthen our ability to write, read, speak and think critically.*

***Subject areas to be explored this year:***

***Drama:***The Crucible, Hamlet

***Short Stories:***Canadian (including First People’s literature), American and first publications in English as well as stories in translation. You will be reading, examining, and discussing the content of the stories as well as the techniques of the writer. All of this will be done through the lens of critical literary analysis.

\*We will write a creative short story to be entered into the BCTELA (B.C. Teachers of Language Arts) annual Voices Visible completion.\*

***Novels****:* We will read one novel together as a class in order to share a common experience of a text and to understand how to approach literary analysis and in the second term you will complete an independent novel study (oral presentation via PowerPoint, Notebook, Prezi etc.)

***New Media:***We will explore film (study of theme and symbolism and impact on the viewer), journalism and publishing as well as digital communication (writing for social media, podcasting etc.)

***Poetry****:* We will explore both traditional and contemporary poetry (English and works in translation) and learn how to write formal criticism using knowledge of poetic devices.

You will write personal creative poetry as well as ‘spoken word’ poetry to perform for our peers.

**Writing for publication:** This year, you will search for students within your class who may share a common passion for a subject. You will create an on-line magazine with a variety of articles on the theme such as the journalistic interview, creative responses (stories and poetry) and journalistic descriptions and other possible additions. Although it is a group project, you will be marked individually on your contributions.

***Practical Works:*** In conjunction with possible work opportunities and/or application to academic institutions, you will polish the conventions of a ‘cover letter.’

We will explore the importance of ‘registers’ (formal, informal) and how to negotiate this in terms of communication with universities, potential employers and in personal correspondence with a business.

Further, we will examine how to write engaging, original and compelling essays for application for universities/work or for personal publication (narrative essay.)

**Language Conventions:** grammar, punctuation and spelling. This is a crucial component of all your writing this year. We will follow contemporary conventions and my expectations are high.

If I discover that everyone is having difficulty in a certain area, then I will teach a mini lesson on this topic. I also encourage you to visit sites such as the University of Ottawa Writing Center (see the drop box on my website.)

**Research**: With the help of Mr. Lloyd and Ms. Patrick, our teacher-librarians, we will deepen our understanding of academic research using data bases and how to use the latest edition of M.L.A. to correctly attribute our work. As well, we will learn how to incorporate quotations (directly from the text of a certain literature or from academic papers on a particular subject.)

**Oral Production**: debates (informal and formal), individual presentations (with the support of media such as Prezi etc.), group presentations, one on one sharing, extemporaneous\* talk on a subject, reading your own material aloud to a group for feedback or simply for enjoyment.