

Syllabus



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Tips for Success

If you're new to online courses, or if you just need a quick refresher, be sure to take a look at the Student and Parent Handbook.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course will enable you to continue your growth as an effective reader and communicator. In this course you will learn to do the following:

1. Apply effective reading strategies to both literary fiction and informational text.
2. Analyze characteristics of short stories, traditional stories, and nonfiction writing.
3. Refine writing and persuasive skills by composing papers and giving presentations.
4. Use correct grammar and language conventions in your own compositions.
5. Expand and enrich your vocabulary by applying word-mastery strategies.

Course Materials

This course requires no additional textbook; however, we will read and discuss a novel throughout the course, which you must acquire:

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

This novel has won several awards and has been named an ALA Best Book for Young Adults. It has been used in middle schools to inspire reflective thought about coming-of-age issues ever since it was published (1993). The book is available online. You can most likely find it at your local library.

Assignments

You will complete these assignments during the course.

Assessments

There are two types of assessments for the units:

- **Self Check Questions**

These questions ask you to remember facts about the literature you read, or they offer you a chance to practice the concept you have been taught. They do not influence your grade, but they will help you to prepare for the Unit Quiz assignments.

- **Unit Quiz Assignments**

Each unit has a computer-graded Unit Quiz assignment; in addition, there are two Cumulative Review assignments to help you remember what you have learned throughout the course. Make sure you are well prepared before you complete any of the Unit Quiz assignments.

Portfolio Assignments

Each unit has one or more instructor-graded assignments that require writing or presenting on a given topic. You will submit these assignments electronically in two batches called portfolio submissions. There are 8 assignments in the first portfolio submission and 7 assignments in the second portfolio submission.

Portfolio 1 Submission (100 points total)

Unit 1	Reading Strategies: Literary Fiction		
lesson 1.4	Compare/Contrast Diagram	5 points	PA-1
lesson 1.5	Novel Response	5 points	PA-2
Unit 2	Short Stories		
lesson 2.3	Stages of Plot	5 points	PA-3

lesson 2.5	Summaries	10 Points	PA-4
Unit 3	Biography and Autobiography		
lesson 3.4	Mind Maps and Free Writing	10 points	PA-5
Unit 4	Fables and Myths		
lesson 4.2	Myth Interpretation	5 points	PA-6
lesson 4.4	Personal Narrative	50 points	PA-7
lesson 4.5	Expanded Novel Response	10 points	PA-8

Portfolio 2 Submission (65 points total)

Unit 5	Reading Strategies: Informational Text		
lesson 5.1	Graphic Aid: Table	5 points	PA-9
lesson 5.4	Personalized Dictionary	5 points	PA-10
Unit 6	Grammar and Language Workshop		
lesson 6.4	Capitilization and Punctuation	5 points	PA-11
lesson 6.6	Plot Climax	10 points	PA-12
Unit 7	Argument and Persuasion		
lesson 7.4	Letter of Recommendation	10 points	PA-13
lesson 7.5	Speech Submission	20 points	PA-14
lesson 7.6	Personal Response Journal	10 points	PA-15

Exams

You will complete one final exam for this course.

The final exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.

Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on these assignments and exams:

ASSIGNMENT OR EXAM	GRADING	PERCENT OF TOTAL GRADE
7 Unit Quizzes	Computer	35%
2 Cumulative Reviews	Computer	5%
2 Portfolio Submissions	Instructor	40%
1 Final Exam	Computer	20%

Resubmissions and Retakes

For information about resubmitting assignments, please contact your AK Grad instructor.

Grade Scale

Your letter grade is calculated according to these percentages.

A	100% – 93%
A-	92% – 90%
B+	89% – 87%
B	86% – 83%
B-	82% – 80%
C+	79% – 77%
C	76% – 73%
C-	72% – 70%
D+	69% – 67%
D	66% – 63%
D-	62% – 60%

E (fail)	59% – 0%
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Course Policies

For information about how long you have to complete the course, resubmitting assignments, and other questions, please contact your AK Grad instructor.