



Syllabus

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Course Learning Outcomes

1. Apply new vocabulary words to your reading and writing and expand your individual “world of words.”
2. Write your own creative poems, opinions, journal entries, film-to-novel comparison, expository essay, and short story.
3. Compare and analyze life experiences by reading examples of several literary forms, including poetry, short stories, informational texts, and a novel.
4. Identify the elements of fiction and incorporate them into a short story of your own.

Course Materials

You will need to have a copy of the novel *The Dark Is Rising* by Susan Cooper. It was published in 1973 and was awarded a Newbery Honor Award. This novel should not be too difficult to find; you may check it out at your local library or purchase a copy of it from a bookstore.

Assignments

You will complete these assignments during the course.

Self Checks

Throughout each unit, you will be expected to answer several questions about the lesson that you have just finished. These questions are not graded, but correctly answering them will help you prepare for the unit quizzes, cumulative reviews, and the final exam.

Quizzes

At the end of each unit you will need to answer about 3 quiz questions. These questions are designed to help you apply and analyze the things you have learned. They deal with your vocabulary words, the elements of fiction, expository writing, details from the short stories you read, aspects of your novel study, and other items introduced in the unit.

Also, you will need to answer Cumulative Review questions. Cumulative Reviews are quizzes that cover material from all previous units. Cumulative Review 1 covers material found in units 1 through 4; Cumulative Review 2 covers material found in units 1 through 6. These reviews will make up a small percentage of your grade for the course, but they should be taken seriously. They help you remember information from the units so that you are better prepared for the final exam. Your scores on the cumulative reviews are a good indication of how you will perform on the final. If you find yourself struggling with the questions in the reviews, you may want to take the time to go back through the material as many times as necessary to feel confident for the final exam.

Portfolio Assignments

In addition, you will need to complete the required writing assignments and submit them to the instructor for grading. They will be submitted at the end of each unit.

Because there are so many assignments to submit, follow the instructions and make sure you submit carefully constructed and complete assignments to ensure that you receive the grades you are working for.

The course is designed so you complete assignments in each unit as you go. Try to stay on top of everything so that you don't feel swamped. These assignments are an opportunity for me to give you personalized feedback.

These portfolio assignments combine to make up 50 percent of your total grade. Doing well on the portfolio assignments will be essential to your success in this course. Make sure you put forth your best effort!

Exams

You will complete one final exam for this course. S

Your final exam will consist of 62 questions. It will consist of questions about the following:

- Vocabulary and grammar from each unit
- Elements of fiction
- Expository writing
- Short stories read in each unit
- *The Dark Is Rising*
- Text structures
- Informational texts

Grading

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

ASSIGNMENT OR EXAM	GRADING	PERCENT OF TOTAL GRADE
6 Unit Quizzes	Computer	24%
2 Cumulative Reviews	Computer	6%
6 Portfolio Assignments	Instructor	50%
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%