

# Humanities TLC East

## 2018-2019 Syllabus

# TLC EAST

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### Guiding Principles:

- ◆ All students can learn at high levels.
- ◆ Students learn best in an environment that fosters respect, collaboration and support.
- ◆ Students thrive on curriculum that challenges them intellectually as well as creatively.
- ◆ Students are engaged when learning is relevant and meaningful.
- ◆ Student-teacher relationships are based on mutual respect, trust, communication; and consistent, personalized feedback.
- ◆ Technology is a tool—not a teacher—that supports learning and helps us gather and compile information more effectively and efficiently. We utilize and apply technology when it best serves the task. Technology empowers us to create, collaborate and communicate.

### OUR COMMUNITY

In The Learning Collaborative, 9th and 10th graders work together to reach academic outcomes while utilizing 21st century skills. Our teaching team believes passionately in preparing students for a world that asks students to not only be masters of traditional academic content, but also demands that students become skilled critical thinkers, effective oral and written communicators, creative problem solvers, and collaborative citizens.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Humanities is an integrated World History and English program. The district English 9th/10th grade courses require work in the eight Program Goals: narrative, argumentative and expository writing; fiction and nonfiction reading; collaborative discussion; public presentation; vocabulary acquisition and development; and language, spelling, grammar and usage. World History focuses primarily on the major turning points in the world from the late 18th Century to the present. Major themes include the evolution of democracy, revolutions, innovation, imperialism, and war and conflict. Making connections between historical topics under study and current issues, as well as viewing history from a variety of perspectives will be major points of emphasis. Humanities will challenge students to think about people, events, and issues from the past and explain their relevance then and now.

Literary Texts we will study this year include (but are not limited to):

- *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare
- *1984*, George Orwell
- *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini
- *War Book Clubs*:
  - *All the Light We Can Not See*, Anthony Doerr
  - *Hiroshima*, John Hersey
  - *Night*, Elie Wiesel
  - *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque

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### COLLABORATIVE TEACHING

The most basic definition of collaborative teaching is two teachers sharing students and content in order to provide targeted, small group instruction and development of key skills (communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity). Teachers plan projects together and collaborate in a variety of ways throughout the day. Students will access content and develop skills primarily through *workshops*. Workshops may include class discussions, small group activities, research, technology-based activities, lectures, demonstrations, textbook and outside readings. **To this end, there will be one “Haiku” page that includes one gradebook for both classes.**

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### PROJECT BASED LEARNING (PBL)

A project based learning model provides the structure for how students learn in the TLC. PBL provides a rich educational environment where students build communication and literacy skills in authentic and relevant contexts; students work both individually and collaboratively to develop understanding, publish their work for authentic audiences, and regularly reflect on their learning. Through this approach, students develop critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity skills. They also learn to take ownership of their learning and develop a growth mindset.

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### STANDARDS-BASED GRADING

Student mastery of skill through varying content is a key component of this course. Therefore, timely and specific feedback from both students and teachers is essential. Semester grades will be based on a student’s ability and growth in the following Learning Outcomes: Written Communication (Narrative, Informational and Argument); Content Understanding; Text Analysis (both Fiction and Non-Fiction); Research Literacy; Oral Presentation and Collaborative Discussion. Students will be graded through a standards-based grading model where students will have multiple opportunities to show proficiency in the learning outcomes. Grades will reflect a student’s understanding and skill at the end of the semester.

#### Haiku:

All of the class announcements, resources, and grades are posted on a learning management system called Haiku (a.k.a., Power Learning). Students and parents must be invited to join. Contact Chizzie Brown for a parent code.

#### Homework:

If homework is assigned, it will be used to reinforce learning that has already happened in class. Homework may also be an opportunity for students to extend or enrich their learning of content or skill a student has already mastered.

#### Absences:

Students are responsible for the information and assignments they miss during an absence. It is expected that students review the course website on Haiku, to check out the Calendar and Agendas that are posted daily, and to communicate with their partners in class. Missing class is highly discouraged unless absolutely necessary.

#### Late Work:

Student mastery of specific skills and content through diverse and rigorous academic challenges is a key component of their learning. Therefore, punctual submission of work is essential in order for teachers to give timely feedback. This system helps us to personalize learning experiences for students and target each student’s individual needs. Semester grades will be based on a student’s ability and growth in each of the targeted learning outcomes at the end of the semester.

#### Electronic Device Policy:

DHS requires that during all classes student cellphones must be turned off and placed in a cell phone holder of the teacher’s choosing. However, the teacher can give permission for cellphones to be used for academic purposes. Exceptions can be given for medical reasons.

#### Contact:

Feel free to contact Ms. Mall or Ms. McCormick any time!

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