

Senior English Science Fiction/Fantasy Syllabus

Science fiction is any idea that occurs in the head and doesn't exist yet, but soon will, and will change everything for everybody, and nothing will ever be the same again... It is always the art of the possible, never the impossible.

- Ray Bradbury

Literature: Senior English Science Fiction/Fantasy is an academically rigorous examination of all the major genres in this literature classification. This includes *Alien Encounters*, *Apocalypse and Post-Apocalypse*, *Time Travel*, *Computers and Virtual Reality*, and *War and Conflict*. Furthermore, a deep understanding of these concepts will broaden the student's awareness of the present world and his or her place in it.

DCE: The students will engage in a lengthy research project. This project will take approximately fifteen to twenty weeks and will encompass the entire research process... thesis statements, research, annotated bibliography, works cited, rough drafts, and final drafts. The DCE is vital for preparing students for college research assignments. Most students, if they stay current with the individual DCE assignments, actually enjoy the project. A word of advice, do not procrastinate.

Speaking/Listening: Speaking/Listening is 10% of a student's grade. It is a required part of the California Academic Standards. In addition to formal media presentations, the speaking/listening grade is also comprised of classroom literary discussion and analysis. Please participate! Furthermore, any conduct that inhibits or prohibits discussion will not be tolerated.

Homework: In addition to assigned homework, homework also includes studying for exams, writing assignments, and completing various in-class projects.

Grades: 10% speaking/listening, 90% literature (including reading and writing). Grades will be assigned as follows: A 100-92.5, A- 92.49-90, B+ 89.99-87.5, B 87.49-82.5, B- 82.49-80, C+ 79.99-77.5, C 77.49-72.5, C- 72.49-70, D+ 69.99-67.5, D 67.49-62.5, D- 62.49-60, F 59.99 and below.

***It is an Agoura High School English Department Policy not to round up grades.**

Attendance Policy: On Campus: Students should be in their seats and ready to work when the class bell rings, or they will be marked tardy. Six unexcused *tardies* or three unexcused absences will result in a student being *drop/failed* from the class.

Distance Learning: Students are expected to be on Zoom or Google Meets at the beginning of the session. *Once or twice a semester classroom attendance is mandatory (usually when peer reviewing essays and/or research projects). If the student misses these mandatory classes, the points cannot be *made up*.

Late Work: Assignments that miss the deadline or are *late* will be marked down 10% (one grade level) per class period. Once three classes have past, no credit will be given.

Make-up Work: Students will have one class period per absence to turn in work that is late due to illness or other excused absence.

Cheating: Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following: copying or looking at another student's paper during a test or quiz, talking during a test, having information that is being tested visible during a test, copying another student's homework or class work.

Plagiarism: There is zero tolerance for plagiarism. If a student is caught plagiarizing, they will be reported to the proper administration officials. The penalty is a mandatory zero for the assignment and academic probation. **Warning: do not plagiarize. The penalties are simply too severe.** There is no such thing as inadvertent plagiarism.
*All major essays and research papers must be submitted to turnitin.com

Classroom Conduct: 1) Be ready to work when the bell rings. 2) A lecture is a time to listen, a discussion is a time to talk. 3) Be prepared: each student is expected to bring the current textbook to class every day 4) **Keep cell phones in backpacks or purses.** 5) **No personal computers are allowed in class... lecture notes are to be written down in notebooks.**

Distance Learning Conduct: During online Zoom or Google Meets sessions please be dressed in school attire and conduct yourself in a professional manner. Please buy-in to the idea that you are part of a learning community.

Communication: Students, please do not hesitate to see me about any classroom issue. I am a "student friendly" teacher and sincerely believe most issues can be resolved with simple communication. Do not let "molehills" become "mountains".

Support Period: On-Campus: Support Period runs from 7:50 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday. If you have any questions regarding an assignment or just need extra instruction... come on in!

Distance Learning Support: Many, but not all, of the shortened Monday sessions will be "drop-in" sessions for questions or clarifications regarding assignments, essays, or other class projects.

Please sign and Return: I have read and understand all of the above.

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Print Student's Name

Home Phone Number