 **CASTLE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL**

 **LITERATURE and DIVERSITY**

**JULIA GREEN**

***It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept,***

***and celebrate those differences.- Audre Lorde***

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**E-MAIL:** **jhgreen@dcsdk12.org**

**Room: 5800**

**Hours: 7:15-3:00**

**Course Website: http://cvhsjgreen.weebly.com/**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** *This course emphasizes the reading of multicultural literature and nonfiction. Both written and oral analyses of literary works are required. Films are analyzed as texts. Cultural literacy is emphasized as it is necessary to understand the historical, social, and political context of a given work of literature. The course requires focused reading, journal and formal writing, and discussion (p 56, CVHS course guide).*

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Term 1:**

Personal Essay

Literary Analysis

Poem of Place and Identity

**Term 2:**

Literary Analysis (2nd draft)

Memoir

Short Story

Project of Persuasion

**WEEKLY AGENDA:**

A weekly calendar will be posted on our website: http://cvhsjgreen.weebly.com/. The calendar will contain a brief outline of each day’s work, and indicate handouts, notes and assignments. Please refer to the calendar in the event of an absence to see what work you will need to make up.

**MATERIALS:**

Flash drive (laptops and tablets are welcome in class)

Pencils and pens

A two pocket notebook or filing folder

Bound single-subject notebook

Loose leaf ruled notebook paper

Independent reading novel (needs to be with you every day)

**EVALUATION:**

Each term, students will read an independent novel outside of class. Term one will be either a nonfiction narrative or fictional narrative that deals with at least one aspect of diversity. Term two will be a nonfiction narrative or fictional narrative in which an aspect of diversity causes the conflict of the story. On Mondays, students will have class time to read their novels and journal, but they should plan on reading at least two more periods outside of class in order to complete their novel before the end of the term. Students will keep weekly logs on their reading. Small projects, discussions and writings will also be based on students’ independent reading.

Along with an independent novel, students will read short stories, poems, news articles, memoirs and personal essays. Class discussions, projects and formal writings will be based on these readings.

We will write several papers during the time we are together: a personal essay, a memoir, a poem of place and identity, a literary analysis essay, and a short story. All papers will be required to be turned in as rough drafts, workshopped with peers, and then turned in as final drafts. All final drafts of papers are worth 100 points. There will also be a final project that focuses on persuasive writing.

Grades are based on point values for a combination of class work, independent reading, writing assignments, and assessments. Please see me if you are ever in doubt about a grade you received.

**MAKE UP WORK:** Make-up work is accepted when students have excused absences. Students will have the same number of days to make up work as days they were absent. Work from unexcused absences will not be given full credit. Excessive absences and/or missing work can result in Saturday school.

**LATE WORK:** Late work will be accepted for one week with a reduction of 5-10 points off of the assignment (5 for smaller assignments, 10 for larger). If students are tardy on the day an assignment is due, that assignment is counted as late and will be docked 5 points. After one week, students can still turn in work for half credit. All late work MUST be turned in to me during travel advisement. I will not accept late work during regular class time.

**PLAGIARISM:** Copying a part of anyone’s work without crediting him or her as a source is considered plagiarism. Any assignments that have been plagiarized will be given a zero in the grade book and marked as “cheating”.

**CELL PHONES:** Cell phones will occasionally be helpful as a tool in our classroom. I will at times allow students to use their phones for research purposes or to type up something on a Google doc. Texting and gaming, however, detract from the learning environment, so any student using a cell phone at a time when I have not okayed it, or using a cell phone in a non academic manner, will have his or her phone confiscated until the end of the class period. Chronic abusers of this policy will have their phones taken to the office after the parent has been notified.

**TARDIES/ABSENCES/LUNCH:** Please eat your lunch during lunchtime, not during class. Snacks are fine, but only at the discretion of the teacher. Six or more tardies or three or more unexcused absences will result in after school detention or Saturday school. Please note that regular makeup work policy does NOT apply to unexcused absences or tardies.

**BATHROOM PASSES**: Please notify me when you are leaving the room for any purpose. Bathroom passes are to be used only to go to the restroom or get a drink. If you are using the pass for any other reason (to go to the vending machine, socialize with friends in the hallway, etc.), you will lose your privilege to leave in the future.

**A note from your teacher:** *Our class time is valuable. The policies I have in place allow us to maximize the time we have together. As I respect you enough not to engage in behaviors that will slow us down, I expect the same from you.*

**HOW TO GET HELP:** I am available before school, during lunch, travel advisement, and after school. I check my email most evenings, so if you have any questions before we see each other, please email them, and I will try to respond as promptly as possible.