

A.S.K. English: Titles (Modern World Literature, Contemporary Writing, Literature and Society)

The A.S.K. program offers one credit in English and one in social studies for a full year. The curriculum for both classes focuses upon contemporary world issues and themes, with an emphasis on American society and government. Topics may be combined or taught separately, but each class requires reading, writing and discussion to measure your performance. You will receive a separate grade for English and for social studies; your English credit fulfills the writing/literature requirement for your year's participation, and the social studies credit fulfills the department requirement for American government.

The following describes how you will be graded for English.

**Literature/ Independent Reading:** This is one of the more unique features of the class. Choose your independent reading (see handout), pace yourself (about 75-100 pages a week), try different authors, styles, and genres, and have fun!. This assignment accounts for about 1/3 of your grade which includes reading and conferencing your selections.

**Writing: Reader's Journal :** You will keep a reader's journal and submit it as assigned. Although you will have some class time to write in your journal, you may also write at home. The reader's journal grade will be based on the quality of your informal response, on how "richly" you have read. Please review sample questions and answers for the reader's journal. In addition to your independent reading, Reader's Journal responses will be assigned from in-class readings (short stories, non-fiction and poetry).

**Writing: Composition:** I will assign compositions regularly. Topics may relate to units we are studying or other in class readings. Generally, you will have a choice of topics for each assignment, and the length is often 1-2 pages. Each assignment is considered a "final draft", so you should write neatly or preferably use a word processor. Review your work before submitting it. For many assignments, I will require additional drafts; for others, you may always revise the essay to improve your grade and/or to remove a lateness penalty (see below). A required revisions counts as an additional grade; optional revisions will be averaged with earlier drafts. Writing conferences are available for all papers, and I will add 5 points to your writing average if you submit a second draft with the suggested improvements. **LATENESS POLICY:** I will give extensions for valid reasons only, and not at the last minute. Excused absences do not change a paper's