

# Humanities 10: Modern World Literature and History

**Instructor:** Ally Johnson

**Email:** ally.johnson@animashighschool.com

**Digital Portfolio:** [www.allyjohnson.weebly.com](http://www.allyjohnson.weebly.com)

**Google Classroom Code:** avfrxsp

**Office Hours:** Every day before school, 6th and 7th hour.

*“The one duty we owe to history is to rewrite it.” - Oscar Wilde*

## Course Description

Humanities is the study of storytelling. The humanities examine how people understand and communicate their experiences using language, literature, art, music, history, philosophy and religion.

In the modern era there are many competing stories, some complementary and some contradictory. In this course we will critically examine some of the stories that we are told, the stories that we tell ourselves, and the stories that are silenced. Through these stories we will develop empathy for others, critical eyes and ears, and communication skills that empower us to shape our world.

Through the humanities, we will explore essential questions such as:

- What is truth? How is our understanding of the truth shaped by our historical context?
- How can we communicate truths about the human experience through writing and art?
- How do power structures shape truth? How can we "speak truth to power" and shape our society?

## Expectations

Because the humanities includes so many different stories, we will be discussing topics that you may feel strongly about. As such, it's essential that we create a safe space in our classroom to express our ideas and take intellectual risks.

The class requires:

- **Respect.** For yourself, others and our time together. Recognize our common humanity, and treat others as you wish to be treated. There is zero tolerance for hurtful language here.
- **Openness.** Keep an open mind about new ideas, experiences and people. Be willing to try new things, take intellectual and emotional risks, and push the edges of your comfort zone.
- **Integrity.** Stay true to yourself. Speak authentically from your own perspective, rather than what you think classmates or teachers want to hear. Do not cheat or plagiarize.

To keep our classroom running smoothly, we adhere to the [Sophomore Classroom Expectations](#).

## Evaluation Policy

At Animas our emphasis is on deep self-directed and collaborative learning, rather than compliance and competition. Grades are used to communicate information about your growth as learners, rather than to rank or reward your performance. In humanities class we focus on refinement, so every student can earn an "A" through effort, reflection and beautiful work. To that end, I strive to provide timely feedback and return most assignments within a week. Writing assignments may take two weeks.

### Tardy Policy

Being here and on time is essential to this class. It shows a basic respect for me and your peers, and it ensures you get the information and work time you need.

- If you are running late from another class, move with a mission, sneak in like a ninja, and begin your starter. If you appear to be making an effort to get on task ASAP, I won't mark you tardy.
- Use the bathroom during break or lunch. If you need to go to the bathroom in the first fifteen minutes of our second half of class, it counts as a tardy.
- Ask before leaving the classroom. If you leave without asking or wander, it counts as a tardy.
- Clean up your space and wait to be dismissed at the end of class. If you leave before I dismiss you, it counts as a tardy.
- If you accumulate three tardies in a month, it is counted as an unexcused absence and you spend your break, or ten minutes of lunch writing an email to your parents, explaining what happened.

### Submission Policy

Help me grade and return your work quickly by submitting it correctly.

- Please do not share documents with me, or email me your work, unless I specifically ask you to. Use GoogleClassroom to submit all digital work.
- Title all Google Docs with your two-digit number, your name, and the name of the assignment.
- Put a heading on the top left of all papers, and your number in the top right corner.
- Back up your work, ensure you've fully submitted it, and handle printing ahead of time. Technical difficulties are not acceptable excuses.
- Late work is worth 80% of the original value.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get assignments from my DP, a classmate or me.
- If your absence is excused, you have as many days as you were absent to make up the work.
- I do not grant last minute extensions, except in emergency situations. If you are having trouble with an assignment, please contact me well ahead of time.

### Class Materials

- Pens and/or pencils.
- Laptop and **powercord**.
- An organization system of your choice.
- A daily planner. It can be paper or digital.
- A composition book. It can be paper, or it can be a GoogleDoc.

These materials may be helpful:

- Colored pencils or pens for marking texts.
- Post-it notes for marking texts.
- Flash drive for printing.
- Headphones for individual work time.

- Reusable cup for water and tea.