

# Composition/World Affairs/SAT Prep Syllabus

## 2023-2024

*Karen H. Reeves*

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This course is designed to explore the historical, political, and cultural aspects of current global conflicts and issues. These issues will serve as a platform for the introduction/reinforcement of a variety of composition formats. In addition, emphasis will be placed on critical thinking skills, analytical reading, evaluation of sources, and the construction of a college-level critique/research paper, as well as college readiness including SAT/ACT Prep.

**Text:** While there is no text associated with this course, *it will be necessary for students to have access outside of the classroom to some source of news (newspaper covering national/global news, TV or radio).*

### Required materials:

- 1- 2" 3-ring binder (**NO spiral notebooks**) + dividers
- 2 – 1/2" 3-ring binder (for Term Paper, Career Readiness)
- 1 Black/navy blue pen (**required for essays!**)
- 1 Red/green pen
- 1 Pencil, 1 Highlighter
- 1 - Flash drive
- 1 - Inexpensive 3 - hole punch
- 1 - Inexpensive (Tiny Tot) stapler
- Internet access
- 100 – **4x6** white, lined note cards (at least)

### Suggested materials:

Public library  
Word/Power Point access

**Note:** Students who wish to use the Internet at the Public Library must have a parent complete and sign the designated form at the library.

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## Content Outline

### First Nine Weeks (Career/College Readiness, SAT/ACT Prep)

- Reality Check
- SAT/ACT Vocabulary
- Composition Skills (thesis, basic essay construction)
- Critical Thinking Passages
- Practice SAT/ACT Exams
- Resume/cover letter/thank-you notes, emails
- Introduction of News Notes

### Second Nine Weeks (Conflict in the Middle East)

- History of conflict in the Middle East
- Middle Eastern religion (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)
- Analyzing primary source documents
- Term Paper Note Card Workshop

### Third Nine Weeks (Research Paper)

- Supplemental reading
- Composition Skills (research project)
- Research techniques (works cited, citations)
- Plagiarism

### Fourth Nine Weeks (Conflict in Asia)

- History of conflict in Asia
- Eastern religion/philosophy (Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Daoism)

# GRADING POLICY

## **DAILY GRADES = 25% of the Nine Weeks Average**

- 1. Essays:** All essays/writing assignments are graded for grammar/style as well as content. Students will be informed in advance whether an essay will be part of an exam, count as a daily grade, or count as a test grade.
- 2. Classwork/homework:** These assignments will include, but are not limited to vocabulary lists, questions/study guides, graphics analysis, lecture notes, cooperative learning assignments, primary source readings, and research exercises.
- 3. Quizzes:** Students can expect to be tested --- without notice --- on information from the previous day's class, homework assignments, or vocabulary lists.

## **TEST GRADES = 35% of the Nine Weeks Average**

- 1. Unit Tests:** A major objective test will be administered with each unit. Information to be tested may come from any class discussions, notes, wall displays, research, or presentations.
- 3. Reading Requirements:** Students will be expected to read and report on selected books, articles, primary resources related to the news or an assigned research project. Guidelines will be provided in class.
- 4. Notebook:** Each student is required to keep all information pertinent to this class in a notebook. **(Loose papers or papers folded and kept in the textbook are not acceptable.) This will include ALL WORK done in preparation for or in this class.**

## **SAT VOCABULARY EXAMS = 20% of the Nine Weeks Average**

## **NINE WEEKS PROJECT = 20% of the Nine Weeks Average**

Students will be required to complete a project each nine weeks which will count as 20% of that quarter's average. **The exception is the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter when the Research Paper will count as 25% and Daily Grades as 20%.** Complete guidelines for the paper will be issued and discussed in class. **NOTE: Students may NOT receive help (other than from this instructor) on the Research Paper, and the Research Paper will NOT be accepted late.**

## **SEMESTER EXAM = 20% of the Semester Average**

1. Semester exams are administered at the end of the 2nd and 4th nine weeks.
2. Semester exams may include **any information** covered during that grading period.

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**NOTE:** *It is critical that students pay absolute attention in class and develop an effective approach to mastery of the material as we move through each unit. Students who wait until the night before a test to study or to prepare an assignment are rarely successful.*

\*\*\*Exams are NOT to be removed from this classroom without the instructor's permission! \*\*\*

**Please Note:** *This syllabus is subject to amendment when necessary in order to achieve the course objectives.*

# EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

1. Students are expected to **obey all school rules** as presented in the EBA handbook. Do NOT ask me to make exceptions. It is my responsibility to enforce the student handbook. **[Please note Cell Phone policy as stated in the EBA Student Handbook.]**
2. Students are expected to be **seated and quiet BEFORE the tardy bell rings**. Trips to the restroom, pencil sharpener, and trash can, **as well as any board instructions**, must be completed before the tardy bell.
3. **Homework** in this class is essential to the following day's lesson and, therefore, **will NOT be accepted late**. Students should be prepared to turn in homework upon entering the classroom.
4. **Cheating** (includes, *but is not limited to*, copying another student's homework) **will not be tolerated**. Work will receive a grade of "o" and parents will be notified. Not only does it violate EBA policy, but it is counterproductive to the objectives of this class.
5. Students must make arrangements on the day of their return from an **EXCUSED** absence to **make up work** missed. ***It is the student's responsibility to ask for missed assignments (before or after class), as well as to get any lecture notes or other information missed.*** ALL make up work, both tests and other assignments, must be completed before or after school hours. **Assignments issued before an anticipated class absence are due upon that student's return to class unless arrangements are made with this instructor before the absence.** [Note attached attendance policy as stated in EBA Handbook.]
6. Students are required to bring **pencil and pen, paper, and notebook** to class EVERY DAY unless otherwise notified. You WILL NOT PASS MY CLASS if you repeatedly attend unprepared.
7. Students are expected to display **courtesy** by raising their hands before speaking or leaving their desks, to respect the person and property of others, and to wait for the instructor, **NOT THE BELL**, to dismiss the class!
8. **PAY ATTENTION and STAY ON TASK!** We will not have time to waste nor will this instructor be patient with those who insist upon doing so.
9. Students are expected to demonstrate **RESPECT** for themselves and others while in this classroom. **Abusive or inappropriate comments, intimidating behavior, general rudeness, and constant complaining directed at other students or the instructor will not be tolerated.** A positive attitude and constructive behavior are expected so that this will be a meaningful learning experience.

Failure to meet these expectations will result in the following consequences (unless otherwise stated):  
**1st Offense: Documented Warning/Student Conference**  
**2nd Offense: Parental Conference/Detention**  
**3rd Offense: Office Referral**

**Note:** Your success in this class is *extremely* important to me. Please contact me if you have difficulty meeting the requirements of the class, and together we can develop a plan to help you meet the standards as set forth in the course objectives.

**Contact Information: Karen H. Reeves**

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Instructor: *Karen H. Reeves*

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature