

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.

- Diogenes

Hello and welcome to the 2019-2020 school year!

The Humanities team is very excited to welcome all of our new and returning students to, what we believe, is one of the most rewarding educational experiences in PISD. Our goal with Jasper's Humanities program is to provide our students with an academic experience that not only allows them to achieve, but also to flourish as 21st century thinkers and lifelong learners. With these goals in mind, we challenge ourselves and our students to approach the subject matter and expectations of this course with enthusiasm and an open mind. Due to the nature of the subject matter of our course, students are occasionally asked to examine artistic works, political ideas, and social values of a challenging or provocative nature. In these instances, we seek to provide a safe environment to explore and discuss these ideas in a way that furthers everyone's understanding.

Humanities is a challenging course on many levels. **Success in our course comes from not only knowledge, but curiosity, creativity, organization, time management, resilience, and an ability to work independently as well as with both your peers and your teachers.** Simply remembering information does not guarantee success; students must be able to create and recognize the relationships amongst the information. We also seek to foster our students self-advocacy. To this end, we encourage our students to talk to us whenever they have a need in our class. Please help us with this goal by asking your student to talk to us about class before you get involved.

Our desire is for **every** student to feel successful in our class. **Never hesitate to ask any of us for help or guidance in any aspect of this course.**

Below you will find some specific information relevant to our course.

GRADES: We do our best to emphasize effort and engaged participation over simple numeric grades. We do know, however, the significance of grades to our students and their families. End of grading period averages will be comprised of a combination of daily and major grades. Daily grades make up 25% of the total average, while major grades constitute 75%. These major grades could come in the form of standard multiple choice assessments, in-class essays, or long term assignments done in either a group or individual format.

TEXTBOOKS: To assist us in exploring the various topics covered in our course, we use three separate textbooks. Students can keep these books at home. We will inform students, in advance, when they will need each specific book. Currently, there is an online companion website for our AP World History textbook; that website address is:

http://glencoe.mheducation.com/sites/0024122010/student_view0/index.html

In addition to readings from our issued textbooks, this year we will be reading three extended pieces of literature: *Tartuffe* by Moliere, *Things Fall Apart* by Chinue Achebe, and *Night* by Eli Weisel. For all of these works, students can purchase their own copy, or we will provide them with one.

CURRENT EVENTS: We believe it is paramount for our students to be immersed with the world around them. We want our students to be engaged citizens of the world as well as to see the connections between what we study and what happens in the world today. To achieve these goals, we assign two news articles a week for our students to read and respond to. The assessment over these articles will be a major quiz grade each nine-week grading period, with a top achievable grade of 100%. We encourage students and their parents to take time to discuss these articles to increase student understanding.

CLASS INFORMATION: In an effort to make our class as easily accessible as possible to both students and parents, we utilize a variety of online platforms. Our website is our Google site. We have found this site to be reliable, easy to use, and the easiest to access from a variety of devices.

The address for our site is: **tinyurl.com/jhshugemanatees**

On this site you will find all the materials related to our course. This includes nine weeks calendars, class materials, assignment documents, and anything else students or parents may need. We encourage students to bookmark this site and check it on a daily basis.

Our website also includes links to the following:

- We maintain an Instagram account! You can find us at **jhshugemanatees**. The comments portion of this account will be disabled, so it will just be a way to share student work, cool things from class, or anything else we think might interest the Humanities community, including possible Humanities Experience opportunities.
- We encourage all of our students and parents to join the Remind app for reminders on daily work, assessments, and in class activities by either texting **@2f22bg to 81010**. **SOPHOMORES! Please note this is a different account than last year.**

LATE WORK & QUIZ/TEST REVISION: To help our students gain proficiency in our class material, we are offering our students the opportunity to revise major grade assessments to earn additional points on their grade. Below is the format we will begin the year with. **We reserve the right to change this requirement as a team at any point throughout the year.**

We provide an opportunity to do test corrections for all students; students will receive half credit back for every question corrected. If a student made <80 and cannot reach an 80 through just correcting their incorrect answers, they may answer two Short Answer Questions to bring their total grade up to an 80. Students will also be required to respond to some self-reflection questions to help identify ways they can improve their study skills as they progress through school. Students will only receive credit back for answers that are changed to the correct answer. Additionally, they will receive no credit back if test corrections are not complete. Test corrections must be completed within the period of the assigned days and within two weeks of the quiz/test to earn back credit. The online "personal checkpoints" must be done before quiz/test corrections can be started. Essays that are both major grades and make below a 80% can be made up for a 80% through tutorials with a teacher and a complete rewrite of the essay.

It is our expectation that all assignments will be completed on their designated due date. Late daily work as well as long term major projects, however, will fall under the following guidelines: (# indicates highest possible grade)

One day late: 85 Two days late: 70 Three days late: 50

Assignments turned in more than three days late will not receive credit.

TUTORIALS & CONTACT INFORMATION: As we mentioned earlier, we are committed to helping each student be successful in our class. **We want to strongly encourage students to begin to take ownership of their own educational career.** This means that as students encounter problems, difficulties, or simply have a quick question, we hope that the students themselves will seek out their teacher instead of relying on a parent to initiate the contact. With that in mind, we offer several opportunities for students (and parents) to contact or meet with their teacher. If these tutorials do not work with a student's schedule, he/she can speak to their individual teacher to set up an appointment. In addition, we are always available through e-mail or a phone call.

Teacher	E-Mail	Phone	Block Lunch Tutorial	Additional Tutorial
Caitlin Bailey-Garafola	caitlin.baileygaraf@pisd.edu	Ext. 37542	Friday B-Block	By appointment
Kate Piatt	kathryn.piatt@pisd.edu	Ext. 37444	Wednesday A-Block	By appointment
Bryan Cortimilia	bryan.cortimilia.pisd.edu	Ext. 27540	Monday B-block	By appointment
Mike Stanton	mike.stanton@pisd.edu	Ext. 37437	Wednesday B-Block	By appointment
Veronica Sawyer	veronica.sawyer@pisd.edu	Ext. 37435	Wednesday B-Block	By appointment

Again, we are extremely excited for the 2019-2020 school and the opportunity to work with our students!

The Jasper Humanities Team

Jasper Humanities Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity involves not only setting high standards for oneself but living up to those standards on a daily basis, even in difficult situations where stress and pressure may tempt one to disregard his/her standards. The Jasper students and teachers who make up the Humanities community work very hard to live that idea... **COMMUNITY**. With that guiding idea, we ask everyone to think of what it means to be part of a community and what that responsibility asks of them. Compromising your integrity not only brings a sense of shame but can affect your relationships with others, as trust is essential to any relationship.

Ignorance is not an excuse for academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to educate yourself about cheating and plagiarism. If you have doubts or questions about whether a certain activity is cheating/dishonest, ask your teacher for help.

Academic dishonesty will result in severe consequences here at Jasper. Any assignment that has been completed dishonestly will receive a zero, whether it is daily work, a major assignment/project, or a test. Consider yourself warned, because there will be no other warnings; this is simply an expectation of all of our students. Additional consequences may include parental phone calls and other disciplinary action, including removal from honor societies such as NHS.

The following activities are unacceptable and will result in a zero:

- copying homework
- working together on an individual assignment (if in doubt, ask)
- plagiarism - misrepresenting the work of someone else (be it their words, music, painting, etc.) as your own, whether using someone's exact words or paraphrasing someone's ideas without citing them. THIS INCLUDES PURCHASING PAPERS OR COPYING FROM BOOKS, THE INTERNET, A FRIEND, ETC.
- cheating on tests (copying, using cheat sheets, stealing tests or copying test questions, *giving or receiving test questions* or specific test information from a friend.)

These are only the most common forms of cheating, not a complete list of dishonest activities. Avoid any activities that could be misinterpreted as cheating (staring at another's test, using electronic devices during a test, talking about tests with other students, etc.). Remember, ask a teacher if you aren't sure what is acceptable, and when in doubt, cite all of your source material.

We are excited to work with and welcome our students and parents into the Jasper Humanities community. Please think carefully and intentionally about the choices you make so that we can all continue to make Humanities one of the best experiences you will have in your academic career!