

PEN 9 SEMINAR

Course Theme: “I didn’t know that about...”

This theme allows for some flexibility in the curriculum and invites you to determine, in some part, the direction of this course.

Course Overview

- Unit 1
 - The Mind
 - Multiple Intelligences
 - Learning Styles
 - Interests
 - Perceptions
 - Logic
- Unit 2
 - Discourse
 - Communication Skills
 - Socratic Method
 - Debate Skills
 - Truth and Perception
- Unit 3
 - Ethics
 - In film
 - In TV
 - In literature
 - In real life
- Unit 4
 - All About You
 - Student led classes
 - Focus on one passion/skill you have
- Unit 5
 - Humor
 - The power of laughter
- “Unit 6”
 - My World
 - Discussions and debates about current events
 - Will be interspersed throughout

To be successful in PEN Seminar, I need to...

Be prepared: Bring all necessary materials to class all of the time. You will need a section in your binder solely for this class; writing utensil(s). Please bring these to *each class* unless I tell you otherwise.

Participate: Never hesitate to participate – the success of this class depends on equal participation from everyone. It is very discussion-based and you will get more out of it by chiming in. *Remember – there are no wrong answers or thoughts as long as you can support them!*

Have Respect: Respect for each other (and yourselves) is imperative to a class in which opinions are vital to discussion. You may not agree with what somebody is saying, but you must respect their opinion.

Take Responsibility: You are accountable for all of your decisions and actions. Others may give you advice (some good and some bad), but you are ultimately responsible for what you say and/or do.

Take Risks: Don't be afraid to put yourself in new situations and try new things. Trust in yourself and your abilities.

Have Balance: What is the truth? Truth is a balance of two aspects – reason and intuition. Build your arguments/decisions with this in mind.

Learn Actively: This course is “No Deposit, No Return” – you will get out of it only what you put in. Remember that learning is not free; the cost is your involvement in the process.

Be Assessed: Here is how you will be graded throughout the year:

- Daily Participation in class activities
- Classwork turned in
- Assessments and Projects presented to the class

Grading:

Summative Assessment (90%)

- Major Projects
- Tests/Quizzes (oral and written)

Formative Assessment (10%)

- Class Discussions
- Individual and Group classroom assignments
- Homework (which will be minimal but necessary for some of the projects listed under your summative assessment)