



English Syllabus Fall 2022

Dr. Thaller (she/her)

(Thaller is pronounced like Taller, but with a TH)

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Who?

Dr. Thaller



What?

We will cover writing, current events, evidence-based argument, academic and critical inquiry, and literature.

Why?

To best prepare you for college and the world beyond, so you understand your value and your potential to create change

Welcome!

At the U.N. Youth Assembly, activist Malala Yousafzai said: “One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen, can change the world.” And while no one in this class is a child, her words remind us of the capacity for greatness and change that exists in every human being. Through education, the power of words, and the belief in our own power, we hold the keys to change the world for the better.

We use our voices as academic thinkers to inspire change, reveal and seek to conquer injustice, and bring innovation to light. This class is about finding and using our voices, understanding our identities in the larger social and historical contexts, and empowering ourselves as agents of change.

Your voice matters. You matter. You have so much to offer.

By the end of this class, the goal is that you will be prepared to face the future and any writing and research (or any) challenges you encounter with confidence and competence. Hopefully though, you will also come to appreciate the spirit and value of learning through inquiry rather than the simple transmission of knowledge.

Neil Gaiman once said, “The one thing that you have that nobody else has is you. Your voice, your mind, your story, your vision. So write and draw and build and play and dance and live as only you can.”

Open communication is important to me. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions, or helpful information—I’m here to help guide you through this year. The following information addresses class expectations, select school policies, and reading selections for the year.

Please note that most assignments will be turned in on Schoology.

~ Dr. Thaller

Major Texts

The fall semester will deal primarily with academic writing and argument. As such, most of the texts will be scholarly and all will be provided digitally on Schoology. You are more than welcome to print them out on your own.

Course Structure

As Grossmont Middle College students, this course is designed to fulfill the requirements of Grossmont College and Grossmont Union High School District. I intend to prepare you to thrive in college courses, while also being mindful that the shift from high school to college structure can be shocking for many students. This course will be formatted and will function much like a college course.

What does this mean?!

**You are
ACCOUNTABLE**
You are in charge of your
destiny and performance.
Take ownership.

**You are
SELF-SUFFICIENT**
If you need something,
seek it out.

**You
SELF-ADVOCATE**
Note: advocating and
being entitled are NOT
the same thing so be
careful not to cross the
line.

Late Work Policy

In many college courses, late work is not accepted.

However, life happens. Stress happens. Mental health happens. If you know you will miss a deadline, it is important that you prearrange an extension with me to receive full credit for your assignments or contact me as soon as possible.

In general, without an approved extension, you will have 72 hours (three days) after the deadline to submit work for credit. Each day after the deadline results in a 10% deduction.

If you do miss class, remember that it is your responsibility to get any assigned work to me, find out the assignments, etc. The best way to go about finding out what you missed is by contacting a peer.

It is important that you do this before the start of the next class. Being absent is no excuse for coming unprepared when you return to class!

Technology glitches or lost e-mails do not constitute valid excuses for late work.

- Frequently save your work
- Back it up on a cloud or thumb drive
- Email it to yourself



Attendance

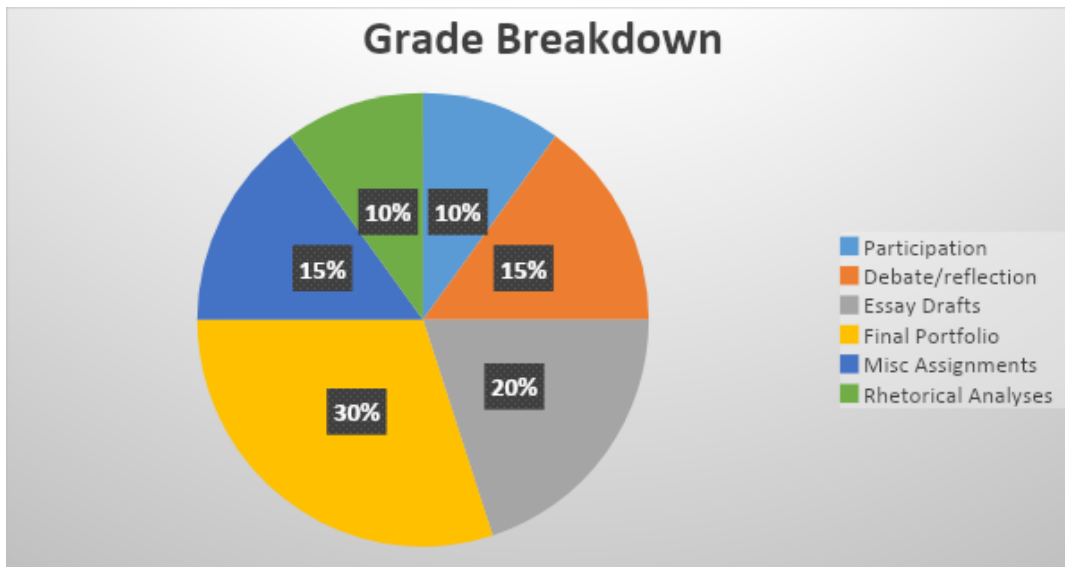
Attendance is essential to success in class!

I understand that emergencies may happen but missing class means that you are missing important information, explanations, discussions, and activities.

Tardies may result in warnings, detention, or referrals.

Grading Breakdown and Scale

We will go over all assignments in-depth, with plenty of time for questions and clarification.



100-90%= A, 89-80%= B, 79-70%= C, 69-60%= D, 59% and below= F

Behavioral Expectations

- To be a successful student you need to be in class on time, prepared to learn, and be a cooperative class participant. In addition, the class utilizes group work that requires student cooperation.
- While Chromebooks will be used extensively in the course, while in class, no cell phones, or other electronics may be in use or out on the desk unless directed by the teacher during school hours.
- Continued negative participation, including being off-task, defiant, or displaying a lack of cooperation, will not be tolerated.
- If you eat in the classroom, it is your responsibility to clean up after yourself. Also, try to avoid excessively pungent foods as we want to make sure the classroom is a welcoming space for everyone.

Academic Honesty



- I take the misuse of academic materials very seriously and do not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty.
- A student using another's work or giving their work for any part of an assignment, with or without his/her permission, will be considered

academically dishonest, lose credit, and be given a referral. This includes unauthorized collaboration and plagiarism.

- Copying anything from online sources without citation information will be considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students will receive a referral and loss of credit.
- Any unauthorized (by the teacher) collaboration of any kind will result in a referral and loss of credit on that assignment.
- Taking photos of your work (or another's work) and sending it in any form is plagiarism and will result in a referral and loss of credit.

Student Work Release

Please note that your work, including videos, may be used on a school or district affiliated website or other digital platforms. Student work may be used for educational purposes. I will always try to delete identifying information.

Classroom Community

Inclusion

This is an inclusive learning community, respecting those of differing backgrounds and beliefs. As a community, we aim to be respectful to all citizens in this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender expression or identity, physical or mental ability, language-levels, and sexual orientation. We are all here together and we all matter.



Pronouns

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you identify with a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Appreciating and Valuing Diversity: I strive to create a welcoming learning community for all. I encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of unbiased and non-prejudicial ideas and experiences, which broaden our understanding of one another and the world around us. The expectation is that you will join us in this endeavor by contributing to an accessible, safe, and respectful classroom environment, free of discrimination and harassment. If you are offended, hurt or made to feel unsafe by something that another student does or says, please let me know. In the same way, please let me know if you are offended, hurt, or made to feel unsafe by something I say or do. It is my intention to ensure this classroom is a safe place for all.

Violating standard rules of conduct, in any form, will not be tolerated.