***English Language Arts 8***

***2016/2023***

***Instructor:*** *Greg Oppedisano*

**Overview:** English Language Arts 8 adheres to the Alberta Education Program of Studies. This program of studies is available at the school or at the Alberta Learning site

(<https://education.alberta.ca/media/160402/ela-pos-k-9.pdf>)

**Basic Aims:** Students will develop their skills and capacities in reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing. Students will simultaneously develop their understanding of and appreciation for literature and other forms of media. The exploration of language, media, rhetoric, grammar, genre, and conventions will be an all-encompassing focus of the course. For a full description of course aims, see the Alberta Learning site, mentioned above.

**Learner Outcomes:** Students will explore their individual and collective thoughts, ideas feelings, and experiences. Students will become attentive to the details in written, spoken, and visual texts, and develop the ability to analyze the significance of these details with relation to meaning. Students will manage ideas and information effectively. Students will develop their ability to communicate their understanding through various media, and will enhance the clarity and artistry of their communication. Students will develop the ability to comprehend texts in a manner appropriate to the context in which they are exposed to them.

**Course Description:** The course will include both thematic units and a year-long focus on reading and writing in a “workshop” setting. Some thematic units will be very short (one week); more major units are listed on the next page.

**Assignments:** Course work will relate to each of the six strands: reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing. As much as possible, these will be present in each unit, but they will receive equal emphasis in the course overall.

**Course Materials:** Sightlines 8 Other handouts and texts

Novels: The Book Thief and tba

**Evaluation:** Evaluation for this course will include both formative and summative assessments. Formative assessment will include feedback in various forms (sometimes written or oral feedback from the instructor, sometimes peer and self-assessment), with the goal of maximizing learner strengths and minimizing weaknesses. Formative assessment will be followed by a summative evaluation of student achievement. This will not include comments; only a grade will be given. The breakdown of summative assessments is given below:

**Portfolio, Classwork Writing Workshop,**

**Novel Studies, Poetry, Etc. 90%**

**Final Exam 10%**

Students and parents should note that the “Portfolio”, “Writer’s Workshop”, and “Reader’s Workshop” components above will each include formative and summative assessments. At the beginning of the year, and at the beginning of each unit/topic/novel, there will be a greater emphasis on formative assessment. Summative assessments will follow.

Portfolio will contain, performance tasks such as in-class presentations, writing that is presented, dramatic reading, enactments, monologues, dialogues, newspaper design, representation (drawing, visual tasks), and other non-written products (photostories, films, etc).

**Final Examination:** The final examination for this course will be worth 10% of the final grade. The final examination will include both written responses and a multiple choice section.

**Timeline of major thematic units – order may change based on student interest:**

**September to November: Suspense, Short Stories (fiction and non fiction)**

**November to January: Poetry and Song**

**Throughout Year: Independent Novel Study**

**January to March: Class Novel Study**

**March-May: Writers Workshop & Readers Workshop**

**June: Knowledge and Skills Review and Summative evaluation**