**English 8 Syllabus**

**Point Grey Secondary 2018/2019**

**Teacher: Ms. R. Gill**

**Rm. 302**

**Email:** **rjgill@vsb.bc.ca**

**Website:** [**www.rjgill.weebly.com**](http://www.rjgill.weebly.com)

English 8 is a wonderful course, and I look forward to working with you this year!

The following is an outline of the units that we will be covering in English 8 this year, as well as a break-down of marks. We will study a range of genres including short stories, poetry, novels, and a major play. There will also be a great deal of emphasis on grammar and writing throughout the year. In exploring these areas, our main goals are to develop reading comprehension and strong writing skills. In order to better assist students, I will be available for tutorial sessions each day between 8:30am and 9:00am. During this time, students can complete homework and late/missed assignments. Should students be absent, they will be expected to attend a tutorial session the following day.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Guidelines/Expectations:**

* Please have a separate binder for the class to avoid losing notes/handouts etc.
* Bring all necessary materials (esp. novels/textbooks) to each class
* Submit all assignments by the due date; marks will be deducted for late assignments
* A note must be provided for any missed quizzes/tests
* All essays will be completed in class (outlines/notes/textbooks permitted)
* Cheating/plagiarism will result in a score of ‘0’ (as per school policy)
* Avoid using your cell phone during lessons; it will be taken away if it becomes distracting
* Please try to be on time and avoid frequent absences, as we will be covering a lot of material in each class

**Course Overview**

**Term One:**

 1.) **Short stories:** We will read a series of short stories from *iWonder 8*, with a focus on:

* elements of a story
* decoding
* reading comprehension
1. **Poetry:** Using a variety of sources, we will analyze traditional/modern poems in terms of style, imagery, and key poetic devices. Students will also have the opportunity to write their own poems.

 3.) **Writing:** To begin the year, students will focus upon the following:

* sentence composition
* creating topic sentences
* paragraph writing
* vocabulary development

**Term Two:**

1.)**Novel Study:** We will read one novel from the following options (Grade 8 Scope and Sequence):

* *The Hunger Games*
* *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*
* *The Hobbit*
* *The Outsiders*

The novel study will involve small/large group discussions, as well as an analysis in terms of story elements (setting, historical context, characters, plot, theme, symbolism etc.).

2.) **Writing:** While continuing to develop basic grammar and paragraph writing skills, students will also learn to write narrative and expository essays.

**Term Three:**

1.)**Media Studies:** For this unit, we will do a survey of the key topics in media: gender and ethnic stereotypes in film (i.e. Disney) and advertising, celebrity culture, social media and privacy, and news media. In addition to participating in class discussions, and viewing relevant films/documentaries, students will do a group inquiry project on a topic of personal interest. This project will then be presented to the class.

 2.) **Writing:** Students will be expected to apply the skills acquired throughout the year in completing a major research essay (based on their media studies project). Through this process, students will learn to integrate information from a variety of sources in MLA format.

**General Assessment (per term):**

In-class essays 25%

Reading comprehension assignments 20%

Short story composition 25%

Paragraph writing assignment s 15%

Quizzes/Tests 20%

Major projects/presentations 30%

Homework 10%

Participation 10%

**Note: Each term will be weighted approximately 33% of the final mark**