

**T.C. Williams High School**

**Foundations of Literacy A**

**Mrs. Peggy Di Scipio**

**Room 117**

**Office hours 7:45-8:15 AM (M-F); 3:15-4:25 PM (Varies)**

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**703-824-6750**

**Syllabus**

**2018-2019**

**Course Description:**

This course helps students improve functional reading skills and develop new strategies, enabling them to be more successful in their high school classes. The curriculum expands vocational and academic literacy and promotes personal security by enhancing fundamental reading proficiency. Instruction utilizes research-based programs and methods in the area of active literacy. Students develop and implement skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking. An important objective of this course is to encourage students to read independently for enjoyment.

**Course Essential Questions:**

* How will improving my reading enhance my opportunities in life?
* Can I use literacy competencies to make myself a confident, self-directed learner?
* How will my use of strategies developed in this course improve understanding of reading, listening, and communicating?
* How does reading improve my vocabulary?
* How does reading connect to making me a better writer?

**Course Transfer Goals:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Utilize cross curricula learning strategies.
* Construct well-written, grammatically correct text.
* Demonstrate increased fluency in reading.
* Demonstrate increased comprehension in reading.
* Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
* Use writing to learn.
* Demonstrate active listening skills.
* Demonstrate higher level thinking skills.
* Read silently in order to reinforce literacy skills.
* Increase motivation to read independently.

**Course At A Glance:** Students will use close reading strategies to improve comprehension of non-fiction and fiction texts. Students will respond to text orally and in writing.

**Instructional Sequence**:

The following skills and strategies will be addressed all four quarters:

* Research skills
* Pre-, During- and Post-Reading strategies to increase comprehension
* Making an inference
* Increasing word recognition
* Improving fluency
* Selecting books for independent reading
* Metacognition: Thinking about your thinking
* Skills to improve written expression
* Vocabulary Strategies

**Materials:**

 1-subject notebook

 Paper

 Pen/Pencil

**Supports Available**: (Students are expected to use these supports to enhance academic achievement).

* Writing Center (King Street)
* Before and After School Tutoring
* Saturday Learning Academy

**Grading:**

* Formative Assessments (Classwork) 50%
* Summative Assessments (Tests, Quizzes, Projects) 50%

**Grading Criteria:**

|  |
| --- |
| High School Courses |
| Numerical Grade | Letter Grade | Advanced Placement | Honors | Standard Classes | Receives Credit | Include in GPA | Weighted Credit |
| 93-100 | A | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.0  | Y | Y | Y |
| 90-92 | A- | 4.7 | 4.2 | 3.7  | Y | Y | Y |
| 87-89 | B+ | 4.3 | 3.8 | 3.3  | Y | Y | Y |
| 83-86 | B | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.0  | Y | Y | Y |
| 80-82 | B- | 3.7 | 3.2 | 2.7 | Y | Y | Y |
| 77-79 | C+ | 3.3 | 2.8 | 2.3 | Y | Y | Y |
| 73-76 | C | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.0 | Y | Y | Y |
| 70-72 | C- | 1.7  | 1.7  | 1.7  | Y | Y | N |
| 67-69 | D+ | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | Y | Y | N |
| 60-66 | D | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | Y | Y | N |
| 59-40 | F | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | N | Y | N |
|  | I |  |  |  | N | N | N |
|  | NG |  |  |  | N | N | N |
|  | NR |  |  |  | N | N | N |
|  | P |  |  |  | N | N | N |
|  | WP |  |  |  | N | N | N |
|  | WF |  |  |  | N | N | N |
| I  | Incomplete | Given when a student has not completed sufficient assignments and assessments to calculate a valid quarter grade. Students will work with the teacher to resolve the incomplete within 10 days of the end of the quarter.  |
| NG | Not Graded | Given when a student exits a class in the middle of the quarter to enroll in a more appropriate placement. |
| NR | Not Required | Given when a particular assignment is not required of an individual student for such reasons as medical, IEP accommodation, senior experience, etc. |
| P | Pass | Given for pass/fail classes such as PACE, SOL Prep, etc. |
| WF | Withdraw Failing | Given when a student withdraws from a class with a current grade of F. |
| WP | Withdraw Passing | Given when a student withdraws from a class with a passing grade. |

**Class Specific Assessment Grading Policy:**

* All assignments/projects are due on time. Anything not turned in within 5 days of the end of the quarter will not be graded.

**NOTE: All policies listed in the “Common Course Expectations” document posted on Blackboard, including, the ACPS Honor Code** [**http://www.acps.k12.va.us/board/manual/jfc-r2.pdf**](http://www.acps.k12.va.us/board/manual/jfc-r2.pdf) **), apply to all classes at T.C. Williams High School.**