SYLLABUS

NONFICTION

Instructor: Mrs. Dawn Lewis

Room: 313

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Website: <http://thelewislair.weebly.com>

Texts: *Night*

*The Innocent Man*

*Me Talk Pretty One Day (selections)*

*The Omnivore’s Dilemma*

You may purchase texts on your own (good because you can mark them up) or borrow school (or my) copies.

PREREQUISITE: Completion or concurrent enrollment in English III

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Nonfiction is the study of literature that is (or is believed) to be true. Sometimes it may be slanted to favor a particular viewpoint. It includes essays, memoirs, true crime, biographies, autobiographies, historical accounts, cultural studies, scientific accounts, and in film, documentaries. Since we only have a semester, we will only concentrate on a few of these areas. Outside reading is required. Course may be used to satisfy either an elective requirement or one semester of senior level English. Since this is a literature based course, **you must read and be prepared to discuss** what you have read. I do not normally give tests or study guides unless the class will not discuss.

BLOG: Each week, an article will be posted to the blog page for this class. You must read the article and blog a short response to the article (about a paragraph).

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1-4—The Memoir/Historical Study

Readings: *Night* (Elie Wiesel)

Discussion

Film: *Night and Fog; Oprah and Elie Wiesel at Auschwitz; Hotel Rwanda*

Assessments: SOAPStone; Holocaust webquest

Week 5-8 True Crime/Biography/Cultural Study

Readings: The Innocent Man (John Grisham)

Discussion

Films: *The Central Park Five*

Assessment: Innocence Project; Socratic Seminar

Week 9-10 Essay

Readings: *Me Talk Pretty One Day (David Sederis)*

Discussion

Films: Inteview from Youtube

Assessment: Analysis Essay

Weeks 11-13 Bias in Documentaries

Films: Fahrenheit 9/11; Waiting for Superman

Readings: articles and reviews of movies

Assessment: Socratic Seminar

Weeks 14-18 Cultural/Scientific Study

Reading: *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*; selections from *Fast Food Nation*; articles about food

Films: *Food, Inc*.; *Fed Up*

Assessment: Omnivore’s Dilemma packet; Socratic Seminar

Final Exam: Essay (3 prompts given; must write two)