

Regular attendance is required to demonstrate a consistent and sustained achievement of the outcomes necessary to earn the credit for this course. *Regular attendance is defined by our school attendance policy.*

Due dates: Many outcomes for this course require work to be created following a plan and to be submitted on an assigned due date and it becomes very challenging to track your progress throughout the semester and to understand your true abilities if work is not completed. In order for me to give you thorough feedback in a timely manner and to assess you fairly, due dates must be respected. Parents and/or principals will be contacted if you are struggling to meet deadlines, and you will also be required to spend time in the homework room during your lunch hour. Incomplete or late course work could result in a deteriorated grade or course failure. *The GVS late assignment policy can be found in your Student Handbook.*

The Basics

1. Come to class prepared with a notebook or loose-leaf, pens/pencils and a binder to keep your work safe and organized.
2. If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining and missed class work, notes or assignments.
3. Cell phones, iPods, iPads (and other electronic devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight during class UNLESS I have given you permission or direction to use them (which I will do from time to time). For example, during longer work periods, I am okay with you listening to music via headphones (as long as you aren't playing constant DJ or sending messages via the same device). If I issue you a reminder/warning, the next time your device appears, it will remain in my possession until the end of class.
4. Be on time! Tardiness is disrespectful to both you teacher and peers, please do not waste our time.

The Classroom Environment

Many students assume that if they do well on all their assignments, they should get a good grade in the course. This is not always so. Participation includes (1) attendance, (2) quality of preparation, (3) oral contributions, and (4) other activity or lesson-based requests. I understand that some people are shy, some intimidated and some simply cut off by others' comments. I will do my best to maintain an atmosphere in which each student's contribution is welcomed and respected (*see anti-bullying policy in student handbook*), and otherwise look mainly to the quality, not quantity, of all contributions.

Please reflect before speaking, build on previous comments, help discover the meaning that others are struggling to express, be open to persuasion, and bend to the weight of evidence and reasoning. You must be prepared to back up your claims, to defend your judgments, to show the connection between your arguments and conclusions, and to use the variety of insights and perspectives in the class to advance your understanding of our texts and the themes. The ultimate goal of class discussion is that each of us can learn from each other; otherwise we would read the books and home and never meet!

Contact Info

Please do not hesitate to bring your questions, comments and concerns to my attention. I am here to help! If you are looking for me, I will likely be in either **room 103 or 107**. You can also reach me at: **wreimer@hsd.ca** or **204-434-6415**.

Aesthetic vs. Pragmatic Purposes *

http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/iso/senior/ela_differences.pdf

The differences between aesthetic and pragmatic purposes can be illustrated by looking at taking a walk for fun versus walking to get somewhere:

Walking for *aesthetic purposes* could include listening to the birds sing, checking out your neighbour's yard work, smelling the lilacs, and so on. Generally, you take your time and appreciate various aspects of the experience. You are fully conscious of how good it feels to stretch your muscles and breathe in the fresh air.

On the other hand, if you are walking for *pragmatic purposes*, for example, in order to get to school or work, you probably walk more quickly and pay more attention to obstacles such as puddles to walk around than to whether the trees are budding yet. You probably would walk more automatically, thinking of things such as your plans for the day, rather than revelling in how good it feels to stretch your muscles. Of course, there is nothing to stop you from enjoying your walk, that is, from combining aesthetic and pragmatic purposes.

When engaging with text for aesthetic and pragmatic purposes the differences are:

When you engage with a text for *aesthetic purposes* you expect to take pleasure in being in the world of that text, and will take time to appreciate various aspects of the craft and overall experience. You may, view a film, read a novel, or listen to a song in order to understand peoples' feelings, vision, and/or experiences.

When you engage with a text for *pragmatic purposes*, you expect to take some knowledge and information from the text, and so you value clarity-that is, you want to express ideas clearly and directly and to be organized and formatted in such a way that you can easily find what you need. You may read a newspaper and view television commercials to become more informed about current events, products, or issues so that you can make decisions.