Academic Decathlon Class Contract Mr. Borneman

Oxnard High School Fall 2015 - Spring 2016

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First Semester: Seminar in Historical Research (Meets A – G Requirements)

Second Semester: Academic Enrichment (counts for units)

- OR - (for those who go to State Competition) : Seminar in Historical Research

**Class Expectations and Contract**

**Purposes:** There are four main purposes for this course: (1) **appreciating** and learning to enjoy art, literature, and music, (2) preparation in **skills** which will be useful for college: public speaking, intense studying, interviewing, and analyzing art, music, and literature; (3) acquiring **content** which will be valuable in college, particularly in the fields of music and art history and appreciation, and (4) GETTING TO THE 2016 **STATE COMPETITION**!!!!

**Time and Materials:** For the first semester, the course is structured with amounts of time after school,. In September from 3:30 to 5:00 or 5:30 (for Film Mondays); in October we meet from 3:30 to either 6:00 or 6:30 (for Film Mondays); and In November we meet from 3:30 to 7:00 or 7:30 (for Film Mondays) until the Ventura County Scrimmage. After the Scrimmage the “A” team will be selected. They will meet in December from 3:30 to 7:00 but the rest of the class will only meet from 3:30 to 4:30. We generally do NOT meet on Fridays. **Once** a month we will arrange an Extra-credit make-up special study session on the Weekend (TBD) from 11:00 – 3:00.

ALL students are **required** to attend **both days of competition,** the speech **showcase**, and the **scrimmage**. Students’ grades are based on a combination of attendance and performance on tests. (Grades are explained below.)

Decathletes will be issued study packets, binders, a copy of Nectar in a Sieve by Kamala Markandaya, and several hundred notecards, and a box to put their stuff in. Students will need to bring a **permanent drinking cup**, pens & pencils, and their enthusiasm. The A-Team will be issued colored Art Guides and Aca Deca Music CDs.

**Five Basic Class Rules:**

1. **Respect for People** – students must show respect for other students, the teacher, administrators, substitutes, visitors, competitors, and any others in class. Most importantly students must respect themselves.

2. **Respect for Materials** – students must show respect for the property of others and of the school.

3. **Work** – All homework and speech work must be **typed**. Period. In-class work/essays will likely have to be handwritten.

4. **Preparation** – Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed their readings and assignments. Failure to come prepared will be treated as an absence. (See “Grades” below.)

5. **Class Time** –Each half hour of class time is considered one point. Missed class time can be made up through extra credit on unit tests and Weekend sessions.

**Monthly Attendance Points**: Each month has an approximate value as follows:

September 48 points (3 M x 4) + (12 W x 3)

October 89 points (4 M x 6) + (13 W x 5)

November 86 points (4 M x 8) + (8 W x 7)

December/January (M/W 23 x 2) = 46 points

Speech Showcase = 20 points (required)

First Day Competition = 20 points (required)

Approximate Total: 300

**7 Objective Subject Test Points:** A set of 7 Objective tests will be administered in class in January. 100 points will be given for each subject but two of the tests (Math and Econ.) are “extra credit” The total required is 500 points. (Scores are based on the 1000 point test score, so if a student gets 670 on a test, that’s a 67/100.) Two of the seven subject tests (Math and Econ.) are extra credit. If a student got a 500 on each of the 7 subject tests (each 500 counts as 50/100), that would be a total of 350 out of 500 (because of getting 500 on the two extra credit tests), which is a 70%. Grades will be calculated during finals week, before the end of the semester.

Approximate Total: 700

**Extra Credit and Adjustments:**

Any points earned at the County Competition (after the semester has ended) may be used to adjust your grade in lieu of your subject test in class. So if you got a 220 in math in class, but a 450 in math at county, you can substitute your 45/100 math score for your pathetic 22/100 extra credit. Grades can be changed post-facto.

Potential Total: a lot – if you do well on objective tests

**Caps and Baselines:** If a student does a certain minimum, no matter what, they will pass with a certain minimum grade. If a student fails to do certain things, their grade is capped at a certain level:

Any student who misses both days of competition has their grade capped at 50%.

Any student who misses one day of competition has their grade capped at 60%

If a student misses the scrimmage or speech showcase (one of them) their grade is capped at 90%.

If a student misses both scrimmage/speech showcase, their grade is capped at 80%.

*If a student attends all 4 events, their minimum grade is 60% (they cannot get lower)*

**Grading Scale**: Grades are given on a points system out of 1000, with caps and boosts placed as described above. The point-based grading scale is as follows:

**A = 90% + B = 80 – 90% C = 70 – 80% D = 60 – 70% F = <60%**

**Signatures of Acceptance:**  
Name of Student (printed):