**Academic Decathlon Class Contract**

Oxnard High School

Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

Mr. Borneman Mr. McCrory

Office Hours M – Th 3:00 – 3:30 Office House M – Th 4:45

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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

ALSO: Optional Co-Enrollment in AP Capstone Seminar

**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) winning lots of awards and GETTING TO THE 2019 **STATE COMPETITION**!!!!

**Time and Materials:** For the first semester, the course is structured with increasing amounts of time after school. In September from 3:30 to 5:30 (M – Th) in October we meet from 3:30 to 6:00; and In November we meet from 3:30 to 6:30 until the Ventura County Scrimmage (Dec. 8). After the Scrimmage the “A” team will be selected. In December the A-Team will set their own schedule but the rest of the class will only meet from 3:30 to 4:45. We generally do NOT meet on Fridays, except in January. The second Thursday of each month features a film related to the topic (The 1960s) which may go longer or shorter than the scheduled time.

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

Decathletes will be issued study packets, binders, and several hundred notecards, and a box to put their stuff in. They will be responsible for getting their own copy of Tom Stoppard’s Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead. Students are encouraged 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 in December.

**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. If a students leaves the program, they must return all materials provided to them (packets, notecards, etc.).

3. **Work** – All homework and speech work must be **typed**. Period. In-class work/essays will likely have to be handwritten. Plagiarism is grounds for suspension as it can jeopardize the entire team.

4. **Preparation** – Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed their readings and assignments.

5. **Class Time** –Mr. Borneman will be in charge of the course from 3:30 to 4:45 and Mr. McCrory is in charge from 4:45 onwards. Breaks and sometimes food will be provided. The A-Team may choose to spend additional time during Winter Break; other Decathletes are welcomed to join but are not required to attend such sessions.

You can also choose (at any time) to take the class as Academic Enrichment just for credit, not a grade.

**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 the competition has their grade capped at a D.

If a student misses the scrimmage, awards ceremony, or speech showcase (one of them) their grade is capped at a B+.

If a student misses any two of scrimmage, awards ceremony, or speech showcase, their grade is capped at a C.  
 If a student misses all three of the scrimmage, awards ceremony, or speech showcase, their grade is capped at a D.

*Each student score of 300/1000 or lower on any event may be used to lower a student’s grade in the course by 1/3 of a grade (i.e. from an A to an A-).*

*If a student attends all 5 events, and actively participates throughout the semester, and scores at least 300 on each of the 10 events, they are likely to receive an “A+”.*

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

Student Contact phone #:

Student Contact e-mail:

Parent of Guardian Name (printed + signature):