



Reading THE NEW YORKER At Regis

Senior English Elective
1st Trimester 2015
Mr. Grunner



(1) COURSE DESCRIPTION

Since its first publication in 1925, *The New Yorker* has remained a preëminent publication in the world of news and letters. Known for its intelligent and eclectic mix of politics and culture, humor and cartoons, fiction and poetry, and reviews and criticism, THE NEW YORKER has published some of the most famous and significant pieces of fiction and journalism (does a little essay called “Hiroshima” by John Hersey ring a bell?). In this class, in an effort to familiarize ourselves with a publication that should be on all of our weekly To-Read lists, we will spend a trimester reading and discussing a variety of essays and short stories pulled from the weekly issues of THE NEW YORKER (we’ll also laugh with gusto at the cartoons). Our final project will involve our putting together an issue in the style of the magazine.

(2) REQUIRED TEXTS

Simply: a copy of each week’s THE NEW YORKER, widely available in bookstores and newsstands throughout the city. It will be your responsibility to secure a copy each week. Should we decide to dive into the archives, I will make those articles available on Moodle.

(3) METHODOLOGY

Class discussion; the rare lecture; the occasional class visit; perhaps a field trip or two.

(4) NUMBER OF CLASS SESSIONS

We will meet three times (3x) per cycle for forty-minute sessions

(5) EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Homework: Essays from *The New Yorker* are, as a rule, quite long. Moreover, they can also be quite difficult and dense—therein lies the fun! Students are expected to come to each class session having read every last word of an assigned essay/story and prepared to discuss the assignment with the class. The success of this endeavor rests wholly upon your shoulders.

Writing: Through the course of the trimester, students will compose two intelligent and engaging response papers and will take part in a larger final group project (the details of which I shall reveal in time).

Tests and Quizzes: Don't make me. If I sense that you're taking a relaxed approach to completing the assigned readings, quizzes, the likes of which you have not seen in your four years, shall rain down upon your heads.

Other assessments: Class participation will count for 20% of your final grade and will be determined at the end of the trimester.

(6) GRADING POLICIES

Your trimester grade will be calculated using the following breakdown:

- Participation (20%)
- Response Paper 1 (20%)
- Response Paper 2 (20%)
- Final Project (40%)

(7) MISCELLANEOUS

In my experience, laptop computers are more likely to tempt a student into distraction than to aid him in his learning and note-taking. Thus, use of a laptop computer will not be permitted during class discussion. After all, when coming together as a group to discuss a piece of writing we have all spent time reading and thinking about, there is absolutely no need to use a laptop. Furthermore, cell phones should remain on silent and should be left in your bag.