

Peter Jana Syllabus - Fall 2019 - People's Water

11th Grade Humanities

High Tech High

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Course Vision:

We will strive to create a discussion based class where diverse ideas and perspectives are welcomed and explored. We will strive to emphasize depth over breadth and understand that significant questions are more important than facile answers. Along the way, we will study the philosophy of ethics and U.S. history.

Project: People's Water

Humans are drawn to the oceans. Approximately eighty percent of the earth's population lives within 200 miles of the coast. These zones support life and are sources of economic viability. The South Coast of California in which San Diego is located is one such zone. It contains one of the richest ecosystems on our planet and is a biodiversity hotspot. As such, our home town provides rich opportunities for studying the relationship between humans and the oceans.

In *People's Water*, students will explore this relationship through empirical and philosophical investigations. In Biology, students will examine thousands of years of microfossil evidence, consider indigenous ecological knowledge, and develop research questions that they will test using environmental survey methods. In Humanities, students will question the nature of private property and communally held resources and apply ethical concepts to current environmental problems related to the ocean. These investigations will result in students developing educational resources for middle school students and presenting their resources to the middle school students at their school.

Habits of Mind: Through reading, writing, discussion, and research, students will develop the following habits of mind: 1) developing a claim; 2) using evidence; 3) using reason/analysis; 3) drawing connections between different events or topics; and 4) developing questions for further study, reflection, and research.

Student Expectations: Be respectful. Work hard. No whining.

Honors Component: Honors students should expect work that goes above and beyond the non-honors curriculum. It is important to realize that students cannot drop out of honors once they have enrolled in honors. Although a student's GPA will increase with an honors class, the letter grade earned in honors will remain on the official transcript. Honors can be a rich and rewarding experience but it should not be taken lightly. It should be balanced with other commitments, whether they are extracurricular (like sports) or curricular (like other honors classes and/or college classes). Talk to me and read the honor's contract for more details.

Academic Integrity / Plagiarism: Any suspicion of cheating and/or plagiarism must be addressed by all parties concerned – including anyone suspected of helping someone else cheat/plagiarize. *Plagiarism is attempting to use the words or ideas of another person without acknowledging the source.* Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and may result in expulsion or academic probation. Be respectful. Work hard.

Attendance: Be on time. Every day. Every break. Bring your stuff. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of grade. If a student has been absent 8 times, regardless of coursework completed, the student's course grade will be incomplete and is not considered passing until it is addressed. It is the student's responsibility to be proactive and speak directly with their teacher if they have an incomplete course grade.

Class Blog and Class Docs: All homework and important dates will be on the class blog and most of the readings / handouts will be on the class docs. There is never an excuse for not knowing the assignments or what we are doing in class, including days when you are absent. It is your responsibility to check the blog for homework and announcements. Do it daily.

Computers: Report any problems as soon as they arise, including small things like missing keys.

Late Work: Homework that is late will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances such as an excused absence. Students who turn in longer assignments late, such as important project benchmarks or essays, should expect a reduction of points that may significantly impact their grade. Work hard.

Printing Homework: Some assignments will require you to have hard copies ready at the beginning of class. Since printing work during class is a distraction that takes away from class time, you should do this at home or at school before class whenever possible.

Communication: It is incredibly important for you to be open with teachers about your daily experience and anything that is preventing you from performing at your optimum. Be proactive. Talk to me before what is happening inside or outside the classroom begins to affect your success. Tell me if things are going too slow or too fast. Help me help you succeed

See other handout for the course calendar. Note that all dates and assignments are subject to change. Read the blog, pay attention in class, and ask questions as they arise.