

Literary Magazine: Chasms

with Mr. Haslam in #2802

stephen.haslam@jordandistrict.org

mrhaslam.weebly.com

A Special Set of Skills

Let's be frank.

You're here to work on the staff of our school's national award winning literary magazine, *Chasms*. You will be working on a student-led team with both myself and Mrs. Campos serving as your advisers, instructors, and facilitators. Like on *Mortal Kombat* (the first one), you have been chosen... for your skillset as an artist, a writer, a photographer, a designer, a poet, or...something else.

As this course is an English credit, there will be writing involved, but artists and designers will have a more art-based approach, likewise writers will have a more intensive writing approach etc.

We will create every day and though the types of assignments may be the same, the medium will often be up to you.

Course Content

Production

A literary magazine takes a great deal of different technical and organizational skills to pull off. There are software programs (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator) over which we need professional mastery. We need a skilled and motivated marketing staff. We need artists and designers. We need to produce work to put into the magazine. We need every person to find a role and work hard toward the production of a quality literary magazine. That means it needs to look good, read well, and it needs to be distributed.

Marketing

Since we don't just want to produce a book, but get it in front of as many eyes as we can, we have to get the word out to students, teachers, parents, and alumni about *Chasms*. The student team will not just get the book out to

market, but also find and execute ways to solicit work from artists and writers, and to get the word out about *Chasms* generally, across the year.

Editing

This includes group and individual editing sessions to go through the "slush pile." A slush pile is the stack of all the submissions the magazine has received. We will develop a fair and accountable system to rate these submissions for inclusion in the book. It also includes group proofreading sessions and other efforts to control the quality of the book.

Classroom visits

We will have several visits from professional designers, photographers, and magazine publishers over the course of the year to give us ideas, inspiration, and direct support.

Grades

Grades are earned by participating in the production, editing, content generation, and marketing of this year's book. In short, it means being a good team member. If we are not good team members, we cannot expect a good grade. In order to calculate this, we will evaluate each other's participation, and I will count things such as absences, tardies, participation in group edits, personal tasks accepted, and generating content, in calculating grades. We absolutely must act as a team in order to get a quality book produced and distributed. This. Is. Your. Book.

Grades are computed as follows:

- Generating art, poems, and prose for consideration to be included in the magazine (5 pieces/quarter) 30%
- Participation and attendance (work-

shops, proofreading, editing sessions, etc) 50%

- Going the extra mile, taking on and executing projects 20%

The grades here reflect my sincere belief that we are a team. Team members convene and collaborate, make commitments to one another, and follow through. Each student is responsible for her or his part in producing the book.

It is my intention to get grades entered quickly. Expect at least two participation grades each week in Skyward. It is your responsibility to check Skyward often to ensure the scores are entered correctly. Work with me to ensure you're given a fair grade, and FEEL FREE to ask questions about it.

Extra credit is very rare Do not count on it to significantly raise your grade.

Word to the wise - Students succeed when they regularly talk to the teacher about their progress. Their grades are better and they learn more. TALK TO ME about your progress in the class. I'm here to help and guide toward success, not to stand in your way.

Quickest way to an F?
Plagiarize or stop showing up to class.

Required supplies

Something for storing your work.
Something to create your work on.
Something to create your work with.
(Artists vs writers consider sketchbooks vs. notebooks, pens vs pencils etc.)

FERPA Notice: Although this class is heavily participation-based and students will see each other's work, student information and grades will be kept confidential and will not be shared without the necessary authorization as per FERPA Regulations.