**Tag Directed Study Syllabus**

**Mr. Sinco (H-117)** [**sincom@fultonschools.org**](mailto:sincom@fultonschools.org)

**Description**:The Gifted Directed Study, an elective course for gifted students, provides for carefully designed research experiences for individual TAG students under the supervision of a TAG teacher. The course is designed to encourage the development of the whole student as a researcher and problem solver. In collaboration with a TAG teacher, the student defines and designs the directed study assignments by contract approved by the TAG teacher.

**Materials:** These will vary depending on the nature of the individual study plan. It is expected that each student makes use of all resources available to him/her including constructive use of the media center, other school facilities and outside resources.

**Contract:** Each student will design a contract at the beginning of the semester which will outline the proposed goal, objectives, activities and products. The contract should be completed with the help of the teacher. Bloom’s Taxonomy and a sample Product List are provided by a TAG teacher to assist the student in writing the contract. The final contract submitted to the county TAG office will be typed in the appropriate template. Changes to the contract must be approved 1 week in advance of assignment due dates by the TAG teacher.

**Bibliography:** Each student will include a list of initial resources on his/her contract in bibliographic form. As the student completes activities/products, he/she will find the need for additional resources; thus, the student must submit a bibliography with each activity/product. Failure to submit a bibliography could be considered plagiarism. According to Fulton County policy, plagiarism is a form of cheating. Cheating will be handled as stipulated by the school’s student handbook.

**Student Evaluation:** Due to the nature of the course, grading will be individualized. The numerical grade is based on no fewer than nine gradable experiences. According to Fulton County Policy, the following scale is used: 90-100 = (A), 80-90 = (B), 70-80 = (C), 0-69 = (F).

Grades are weighted as follows:

80% Assignments

20% Final 3 parts: may not exempt final (essay + brochure + video)

**Late Work:** Assignment due dates are set according to the county’s grading periods (6 weeks, 12 weeks, 18 weeks) students work independently and are accountable for the timeliness of work. Any changes in the due dates after the contract is signed must be mutually agreed upon by both the TAG teacher and student. As per Fulton County policy, students may not turn in late assignments during the final 10 days of the semester.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**

The Gifted Department considers academic integrity a top priority. Any copying or sharing of answers on homework, class work, assignments, tests or projects is cheating. Copying and pasting information from online and submitting it for a review sheet is considered cheating. The only exception to this rule is if the teacher has explicitly stated that the work is a “cooperative learning” experience. All work is to be original and done by the individual unless otherwise stated by the teacher. In addition, any discussion of tests, quizzes, papers, or essays by students that have completed an assignment and any students that have not will also be considered cheating and an honor code violation. If in doubt, ask the teacher.

Plagiarism is also a form of cheating. Plagiarism is defined by The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language as the “act of stealing and using the ideas or writings of another as one’s own.” Although the direct copying of another’s work is the most blatant example, any time a student takes another’s ideas and passes them off as their own it is plagiarism. A student must note the source even if he or she “rephrases” the material. The consequences for cheating or plagiarism on any assignment are the awarding of a zero grade and an honor code referral for all parties involved. Allowing one’s work to be copied is also considered cheating.

**Chattahoochee High School Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Students who complete a major assessment but fail to demonstrate mastery as evidenced by a grade below 75% on the major assessment may pursue an improvement opportunity to show proficiency. In the case of an honor code violation on a major assessment, the grade will stand as a zero with no eligibility for recovery on that assignment. What is classified as a major assessment is determined within the content area; consult your course syllabus for details.

2. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities within 5 school days of being informed of the grade on the assessment in class. Students are allowed one attempt at recovery per major assessment category listed in the course syllabus. All recovery work must be completed 10 days before the end of the semester.

3. The grade on the recovery assignment will replace the original grade if the recovery grade is equal to or below 75%. If the recovery grade is above 75%, the original grade will be replaced with a 75%.

**School Board Policy IHA Grading and Reporting System Provision for Improving Grades**

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

1. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

**Attendance Procedures:** The TAG teacher is responsible for knowing the whereabouts of the

Student at all times during the student's directed study period. The student is responsible for

maintaining on-task behavior at all times during the time assigned for Directed Study. After

contracts are finalized (typically the first 2 weeks) a sign in sheet in H117 will be utilized for

attendance. Students should sign in at the beginning of the period of their DS. Failure to sign in

will result in an absence. Students should not sign in other students.

It is permitted for DS students to work outside H117 (example a student doing sculpture may need to work in the art room). Students arriving or departing campus during their DS period require additional paperwork/parent permission. No DS students are permitted to leave campus during their school day.

Directed Study Due Dates - Fall 2019

#1-2 Mon, Sept 9

#3-4 Mon, Oct 7

#5-6 Wed, Nov 6

#7-8 Wed, Dec 11

Final Mon, Dec 16

*Dec 6 - County Late/makeup deadline (This includes assignments #7-8)*

**Week 1 Directed Studies – Housekeeping & Personal Statement**

\_\_\_ Create Folder (Last name, First name – DS Period) on inside of folder put schedule, student cell number - leave folder in drawer alphabetical by last name

\_\_\_ Read/discuss Syllabus

\_\_\_ Join Remind: Text @TAGDS to 81010

\_\_\_ Complete Google Doc for contact information <https://forms.gle/oAfvNhE447HxqsUXA>

\_\_\_ Discuss sign-in/sign-out procedures – required attendance if missing work or grade below 80

\_\_\_ Set reminders (in your phone/calendar) to send your weekly emails - due at class time

\_\_\_ Put the due dates for assignments in your phone/calendar - due at class time

\_\_\_ Mandatory Meetings dates – everyone meets in H117 during your DS period.

Meeting must be made up if absent.

6 weeks: Mon Sept. 23

12 weeks: Wed Nov. 6

16 weeks: Mon Dec. 9

\_\_\_ Personal Statement Assignment due Friday 8/16/2019

**Week 2 Directed Studies**- **Annotated Bibliography**

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure you have completed the Week 1 work

\_\_\_\_\_ Annotated Bibliography Assignment uploaded due Fri. 8/23/2019

**Week 3 Directed Studies – The Contract**

\_\_\_\_\_ Typed in template - hard copy of rough draft of contract due Fri. 8/30/2019

Keep the hard copy in your DS Folder

**Week 4 Directed Studies -** Independent contract work begins