Senior Seminar Summer Reading Assignment: 2019-2020
The Nightingale Seminar

Overview

For your Summer Reading Assignment for the 2019-2020 school year, you will receive a grade based on your participation in a group seminar focused on Kristin Hannah’s *The Nightingale* and Thomas Foster’s *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. A seminar discussion is a student-run, sustained, graded discussion whose success depends on your preparation and participation. Your grade will reflect not only the number of times you speak but also the quality of your comments, the extend to which you listen and respond appropriately to your peers, and your ability to arrive prepared for discussion with the appropriate texts and materials.

Group Moderator

Before the seminar, the class will appoint a group moderator who will be responsible for the following:

- calling on students
- keeping track of who speaks and who does not so that all students have a chance to enter the conversation and that a select few do not dominate the discussion
- invite reluctant students in a non-threatening manner
- deciding when it is appropriate to change the topic
- contributing to the discussion

Seminar Participant

In order to receive full credit for your seminar grade, please:

- contribute *at least* 3-4 times with your observations, opinions, questions, and insights
- support your ideas with textual evidence
- offer insightful and original observation and analysis
- ask important questions
- demonstrate the qualities of an active listener: look at others while they are speaking, take notes, answer questions, and follow along in the text
- rephrase and respond to the remarks of others; agree and elaborate with added reasoning or support; qualify or disagree constructively with supporting evidence
- encourage reluctant students and always treat the ideas and feelings of others with respect and courtesy
- arrive prepared with needed texts and your written response or log
- demonstrate careful completion of the assigned task

Please do not:

- interrupt each other
- talk while someone else is talking
- change topics at inappropriate times
- enter the conversation merely to repeat what someone else has already said
- offer vague and overly general ideas; if you are unprepared, try to enter the conversation in a productive way
Teacher Role in the Seminar
Your teacher will sit in the circle and will listen and contribute as a member of the group. Keep in mind that your teacher will be observing not only the number of times you speak but also the quality of your comments.

Assignment for the Day of Seminar
You will need to complete the handout titled “The Nightingale: Seminar Reading Log” before arriving to class the day of the seminar. It is STRONGLY recommended that you complete this over the summer; do not wait until the start of the school year, as your teacher will assign additional work for the seminar the first week of school. Your reading log MUST be typed in MLA format. You are welcome to create your own document; do not feel as though you must use the exact template attached to this assignment. The overall discussion will focus on the connections that YOU make between The Nightingale and the analytical “lenses” (i.e. tools for interpretation) presented in each chapter of How to Read Literature Like a Professor. You may not consult outside sources. How do the “lenses” that you have chosen help you to interpret the novel?

Reflection
For homework the evening after the seminar, you will write a one-page reflection (typed, 12 point, double-spaced) in which you respond to all of the following questions:
- Describe your experience with the discussion of this novel in seminar, including your role as a member of the group and as group moderator (if applicable). What were some experiences that were worthwhile, challenging, etc.?
- What were your strengths as a participant in the seminar (frequency of comments, quality of comments, listening and responding, preparedness, etc.)? Explain with specific examples and anecdotes.
- What were some areas in which you could improve in seminar? Explain with specific examples and anecdotes.
- What are your goals for the next seminar (if we have another one later in the year)?
- What grade do you feel you deserve and why?

When you are finished writing this reflection, please staple it to the reading log and turn it in during the next class. Please also staple the rubric to the front of the packet (rubric will be distributed upon return to school in the fall).

*Note: additional work will be assigned in the fall for choice books. Please read and annotate these books meaningfully over the summer and be prepared to discuss and/or write about them.
### The Nightingale Seminar Reading Log

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<th>Name: __________________________</th>
<th>Date: __________________</th>
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**Quote from *The Nightingale***  | **Quote from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor***   | **Analysis: How does the “lens” in *How to Read* apply to the excerpt from *The Nightingale*?** |
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One Passage I Do Not Fully Understand from *The Nightingale*:

Vocabulary: Identify three words/terms/historical or geographical references that you did not know prior to reading the novel. Include a definition (cite the source) and explain how your knowledge of the meaning has enhanced your understanding of the novel.

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