**AP English Literature and Composition**

**Course Syllabus 2019-2020**

**Ms. Ferrari**

**“Literature is the axe that we must use to break the frozen sea inside us” (Kafka)**

An AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work’s structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements, such as, the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

Students in an AP English Literature and Composition course read actively. The works taught in the course require careful, deliberate reading. Furthermore, the approach to analyzing and interpreting the material involves students in learning how to make careful observations of textual detail, establish connections among their observations, and draw from those connections a series of inferences leading to an interpretive conclusion about a piece of writing’s meaning and value.

Students are strongly encouraged to take the AP Literature and Composition exam scheduled in May. Passing the exam requires a minimum score of 3, while earning special university or college consideration requires a score of 4 or 5. Some institutions also grant credit with an earned score of a 3!

**Scholarly attitude is essential in order to create a dynamic learning atmosphere.**

**\*\*\*I do not promote collaboration, particularly on out-of-class assignments. I expect students to work independently so that they are building and practicing the skills necessary to achieve independent success.**

**Materials:**

* One 3-ringed notebook with dividers (vocab, allusions, close reading, MCQ, poetry, Lit notes)
* Paper
* Pens (blue/black ink – all in class essays are written in pen)/pencil/highlighter

**Course Fundamentals**

***Vocabulary***

Students’ vocabulary will focus on a combination of essential literary terms (if needed) and college level vocabulary lists. Students will receive a list of literary terms that they must know. A quiz will be administered for every 10-15 terms.

***Allusions***

Literary, historical, cultural, and idiomatic allusions aid in the understanding of literature. Students will be introduced to one allusion every class period. For every 15 allusions studied, there will be a culminating quiz.

***Writing***

Students will generate various pieces of writing including:

* In- class assignments
  + Write to Think – an opportunity to get your thoughts down on paper. These are non-graded, non-criticized, shared responses!
  + Focus Questions – your opinion and supporting evidence on an idea developed in the assigned reading.
  + Timed essays based on, but not limited to, past AP prompts.
* Out of class assignments
  + Close reading analysis of selected fiction, drama, and poetry passages.
  + Literary analysis papers
* In case of excused illness, essays must be emailed to me no later than **8:45am** on the day it is due! If not, it will be considered “late” and will receive a zero! Staple before you come to class!

***Grading***

* Essays – 45% (Timed essays, close reading passage analysis, & literary analysis papers)
* Literature tests – 30%
* Quizzes – 20%
* Homework– 5%

**PowerSchool**: all grades will be posted as soon as I have completed a class set. PowerSchool will display accurate grades eight times a year: for each quarter, at midpoint and final marking period.

***Absenteeism***

Class discussion is an integral part of this course that cannot be made up. Therefore, please limit the number of absences unless you are ill. **In the event of an unexcused absence or tardy, any work completed in class or due that day will receive a ZERO grade.**

***\*\*Late work is not accepted\*\****

***Plagiarism***

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Any work that has been copied from another classmate or outside source will result in a zero grade and possibly additional academic consequences. **Carefully** review [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

* MLA Format: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
* **I do not tolerate sloppiness! PROOFREAD!**

***Literature: Oh, the possibilities!***

***Summer Reading***

*Dracula*

Choice of the following:

*The Hound of the Baskervilles*

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

*The Turn of the Screw*

***Unit I: The Veneer of Civilization***

*King Leopold’s Ghost* (excerpts)

*Heart of Darkness*

*The Things They Carried* (excerpts)

*War of the Worlds*

*Beloved*

*Othello*

Selected poetry: Dickinson, Kipling, Eliot, Komunyakaa, Yeats, Boland, Harlem Renaissance, Whitman

***Unit II: Comedy and the Hypocrisy of the Victorian Era* (Satire!)**

*The Importance of Being Earnest*

*Lady Windemere’s Fan* (excerpt)

*The Canterbury Tales* (selected prologue and tale)

Selected poetry: Wilde, Rossetti, Browning

***Unit III: Sin and Redemption***

*Crime and Punishment*

*Paradise Lost*

*Frankenstein*

Selected poetry: Wordsworth, Colman, Milton, Hodgson, Rossetti, and the Romantics

***Independent Reading***

During both winter and spring breaks, students will be assigned a work of literature to read and analyze. Upon return to school, students will engage in a Socratic Seminar to demonstrate their understanding of this work. An in-class essay and test will follow the Socratic Seminar.

Winter break: *Kite Runner*

Spring break: *Atonement*

***Extra Help:***

I am available for extra help during my assigned Writing Lab time or after school on Monday & Wednesday. Both require an appointment.

***Classroom Policies:***

* **Electronics**

Cell phones must be turned off when you enter my room and kept out of sight. I do not want to hear your phone vibrate! Please adhere to the Board of Education policy that prohibits the use of all personal electronic devices between 7:23am and 2:00pm. Consequences will result if you fail to comply. You may use your tablets to take notes.

* **Respect**

Putdowns and purposefully hurtful comments or actions will not be tolerated. Everyone will be treated with respect. No one is allowed to disrupt the learning process of anyone else. Under NO circumstances are any words or phrases that are meant as racial, sexist/gender, or religious degradation to be used in my classroom. Regardless of the intent, if any slur is overheard, either as an aside or in private conversation, you will be given a detention and will be reported to the main office.

* **Bathroom**

You may use the facilities, if necessary, during the first five minutes or the last five minutes of class, unless there is an emergency. However, I do not expect you to make a habit of this.

* **Doing other work in class**

While you are in this class, you are expected to work on English only. You may NOT do work for other classes in my class. If I see you working on other work, I will confiscate it. You can pick it up after school.

**FOCUS**

**LOOK CLOSER**

**CONCENTRATE**