**AP English Literature & Composition**

**Syllabus**

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**Course Description:** Prerequisite: Grade of “A” or “B” in AP English Language, or permission from instructor.

The purpose of this course is to involve students in the study and practice of writing and the study of literature. Students should learn to use the modes of discourse and to recognize the assumptions underlying various rhetorical strategies. Students should also acquire an understanding of the resources of the language and an understanding of the writer’s craft. They should develop critical standards for the appreciation of any literary work and increase their sensitivity to literature as shared experience. Students will be required to read assigned novels outside class, analyze poems, and become acquainted with various other literary genres and complete a research project on an approved subject. In May a national test will be administered by the College Board. A score of 3, 4, or 5 on that test will enable students to earn freshman English credit in many colleges and universities. This course requires both in-class and out-of-class essays and reading. This course will endeavor to promote academic excellence in English language arts through enriched experiences in communication skills, as well as through instruction in British literature as a par British and world literary works and influences, and the development of literary traditions in the English language. Composition assignments will include critical analyses and literary research.

Goals of the course:

1. To enable you to plan, write, edit, and revise effective multi-paragraph literary analyses and extended research documents
2. To prepare you for the writing and critical thinking you will do in other college classes and the workplace
3. To enable you to identify and eliminate errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics
4. To use effective strategies to collect, verify, document, and manage information from a variety of sources
5. To enhance your skills in critical thinking, literary analysis, and communication
6. To succeed on the AP exam in May

What you’ll need:

* Blue- or black-ink pens for in-class work that is to be turned in
* Notebook paper
* Folder or binder
* Portable storage device

**Textbooks and supplemental materials will be provided.** If you prefer to annotate texts, you are responsible for purchasing those outside of class.

**Outside reading lists:**

Approximately every four weeks, you will be provided with an outside reading list from which you will choose one work to read. At the end of the allotted reading time, you will be given a specific writing assignment. These assignments will vary from a formal book report (format will be provided), to a

specific essay topic (provided at the end of the read), to such things as a character analysis, or a discussion of theme, or a discussion of your work’s relevance for the time in which it was written and for today, and so on. If an essay is assigned, it will be either an expository essay or an argumentative essay.

**What kind of writing can you expect to be doing?**

In keeping with the course requirements set forth by the College Board, you will be doing a

wide variety of writing assignments. Some will be brief and simple; others will be longer and far more demanding. All will measure your proficiency in one or more areas of the writing process from prewriting to revision to the completed product. Your writing will include, but not necessarily be limited to, interpretative papers dealing with a work’s (a) structure, style, and/or theme(s); (b) expressed social and/or historical values; and (c) use of such elements as figurative language, symbolism, and/or tone. You will write and rewrite a number of such formal, extended essays outside of class, but we will spend some class time revising your drafts as well as writing in-class timed writings, particularly on practice prompts from old AP exams. You will also complete assignments in which you will evaluate your own writing processes. These activities can include, but are not necessarily limited to, reader-response papers, free writing, and so on. You will write and revise formal expository essays (developed using a number of methods), argumentative essays, documented essays, and a research paper. You will be provided with guidance before, during, and after your assignments which will, if you follow the instructions and suggestions carefully, aid you in becoming a better writer.

Instruction in vocabulary, grammar, usage, mechanics, sentence structure, coordination and subordination, organization, and other conventions will be provided with instruction from textbooks, handouts, and in-class work, as well as the *Handbook of Literary Terms*.

**Grades** can be accessed on the school webpage. Be sure to check Smart frequently.

**Assignment Format:** You are to use correct Standard English grammar and punctuation in your written assignments. In addition, you are to use formal language (most of the time), and you are to follow MLA style. MLA format can be accessed online at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\_mla.html. Also, the last two pages of this syllabus are an example of how your paper is to be formatted for out-of-class assignments. **In-class assignments must be written in blue or black ink.** It’s fine to take notes with a pen of another color or pencil, but in-class assignments written in anything other than blue or black ink will not be accepted.

**Out-of-class writing assignments** must be typed. Handwritten papers will not be accepted. Your papers are to be double-spaced, and you are to use a 12-point type, such as Times New Roman or Calibri. Use margins of one inch on each side of your paper, as well as top and bottom. Colored paper is not acceptable. Sample pages are attached at the end of this syllabus to show you where to put your name, date, title, etc., as per MLA style. Your papers will be evaluated in part on your ability to follow these requirements. Finally, staple your paper in the upper left-hand corner; do not put your paper in a plastic report cover.

Make-up Policy: Please refer to the Student Handbook. Please remember that the opportunity to make up work only applies if your absence is excused.

Late Assignments: Without a compelling reason, late work will not be accepted. Please know that computer and printer problems are not valid excuses for a late paper. If late work is accepted, the assignment goes down a letter grade for every day late. Also, we will not “negotiate” about late work during class time. You will have to see me outside of class because we cannot take up class time on an individual matter such as this. There is no partial credit on homework, projects, assignments, or in-class work. Anything “half-completed” deserves a zero.

Plagiarism: Almost all of the writing assignments for this course will require you to use the words and ideas of other people. Plagiarism occurs when you use another person’s ideas or expression in your writing without acknowledging the source. We will discuss what constitutes plagiarism at a later date. For now, know that any act of deliberate plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the essay in question. See also the Code of Conduct regarding the consequences of academic dishonesty.

Class Policies: In addition to the Code of Conduct, the following policies also apply:

* Keep up with the reading and the assignment deadlines.
* Do not work on other class assignments during our class time.
* Respect classmates, teacher and their opinions, even if you disagree.
* Accept others’ differences.
* Meet your responsibilities to your classmates and to yourself that extend beyond the classroom.

**AP English Literature & Composition Weickert**

**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO ME BY THE END OF THE WEEK (10-point daily grade).**

GBHS policy requires that parents and students read this course syllabus and sign a statement that they understand what is expected of students for our class.

**Movie Policy:** Your signature also gives consent to G, PG, and PG13/14 rated movies that pertain to and reinforce literary criterion in this class.

I have read the course syllabus and class rules, and I am aware of what is expected of me for this class.

**Student Name (print) Student signature Date**

I have read the course syllabus and class rules, and I am aware of what is expected of my child for this class. I also give consent to view G, PG, and PG 13/14 movies that pertain to and reinforce literary criterion in this class.

**Parent/guardian name (print) Parent/guardian signature Date**

**Parent contact information:**

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Internet access will be required. Please indicate if you have or do not have internet access, so I can have an alternate plan in action. Circle one: YES or NO**

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