

Advanced Placement English

Mrs. Lillian Amadei

Course Outline and Objectives

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

AP English offers students a college level seminar course which challenges them to explore other cultures and interpret varied literary genres, including drama, the novel, the short story, the essay, and poetry. It will also promote the development of the critical sense for the purpose of defining literary taste. Through practice sessions and constant review of previous AP exams, the course will help to increase students' active and passive vocabulary, especially with regard to literary and analytical terms. In addition, it will allow the student ample opportunity to write both creatively and in a concise, analytical expository style. The class is set up to encourage well-organized, independent and original thinking.

Students will also be expanding their listening and speaking skills in individual and group situations. Critical listening, communicating ideas, and higher thinking skills will be incorporated into a variety of classwork and homework activities.

### **LEARNING STANDARDS**

Students will be able to:

1. access, evaluate, and integrate information from a variety of sources.
2. utilize thinking processes and writing strategies appropriate to literary analysis.
3. create a product whose purpose (such as to inform, persuade, entertain, satirize or compare/contrast) is clear and succeeds in its goal.
4. consider alternative solutions in exploring complex issues.
5. take responsibility for their learning and contribute to the welfare of the learning community.
6. demonstrate a grasp of style in literature and in their own writing.
7. analyze the ways in which professional authors create meaning in a variety of complex texts.

## **COMPETENCIES**

Students will:

1. demonstrate a grasp of audience, point of view, and purpose in a college application essay.
2. practice close reading of literary works for stylistic devices.
3. engage in constructive critical examinations of literary works learning to support generalizations.
4. separate fact from opinion, as well as ask and answer questions effectively in group communications.
5. apply the tools of literary analysis in exploring a poet, and teach that poet's work to the class.
6. demonstrate a grasp of the writing process, employing appropriate strategies in timed writings, take home essays, emulation, and the college application essay.
7. create a portfolio of work, writing self evaluations of strengths and weaknesses in each quarter's compositions.
8. grasp authors' styles through emulation of selected passages.
9. discover their own meanings through reader response journals.
10. examine multicultural values and themes in literature.
11. respond to essay questions formulated by the teacher and prepare their own questions for selected literary works.
12. explore relationships among the humanities through art, music, theatre, and films by attending cultural events and sharing a reflection on the experience.
13. perform scenes from literary work

**The instructor will:**

1. Insure that the instruction bears a meaningful relationship to the individual needs and interests of the students.

2. Encourage input, creativity, and all attempts to participate in a positive manner.
3. Create an atmosphere which fosters communication, excitement, and interest in coming to this class and participating.
4. Strive to make this course interesting, informative, valuable, creative, and reflective of the unique opportunity to encourage learning and serve as a role model.
5. Encourage and create communication with parents/caregivers so as to keep them involved and informed.

**Students are required to have:**

1. A binder or folder for returned quizzes, tests, handouts, etc.
2. A notebook for taking notes and doing homework.
3. Looseleaf paper.
4. Blue or black ink.

**Expectations:**

1. It is expected that homework will be done on time. If the assignment is incomplete without a valid reason, the student must contact me before class. Because this is AP English, students must be well-prepared for each day's discussion, etc. in order to achieve success in this class.
2. Students are afforded any opportunity to meet with the instructor. I will schedule meetings at any time to clarify lessons, answer questions, or assist with work. I encourage communication and will continually emphasize my availability for questions and assistance.
3. Assignments should be done in blue/black ink, on genuine looseleaf, or typed. Students should use a dictionary to avoid spelling errors. Work should reflect attention to grammar. Students should have assignments ready prior to entering the classroom. Everyone is expected to meet deadlines.
4. Students who are absent are expected to obtain assignments. If a student anticipates an absence (extracurricular activity, etc), he or she should obtain assignment before leaving.
5. Students are expected to be on time and have all materials required for class. Organization is stressed and is necessary for success in this class.
6. Any suspicion of cheating will result in BOTH (or whoever is suspected) parties receiving a zero for the assignment and referral to the office.

**Classroom rules:**

1. Respect is of the utmost importance. Students should respect themselves, classmates, the instructor, the school and its property. Talking in a negative or hurtful manner about any student or instructor is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
2. Students should not talk when the instructor or classmates are talking. It is counterproductive, distracting, and will not be tolerated.
3. Students should come to class ready to work. They should be prepared with a blue or black pen and a notebook (opened for note taking.) Students must also bring looseleaf paper to class each day. Work done in class on any other paper will not be accepted.
4. Students must follow all rules in the student handbook, which should be read and understood

**Grading procedure:**

Due to the nature of this course, there will be special activities integral to the course of study. Such activities will include seminar discussions, role playing, and emulation of authors' styles. All will be assessed accordingly. Students will be aware of their progress and offered the opportunity to earn any grade they want.

Calculation:

1. Participation, homework, classwork , and outside effort to enhance the class- 10%
2. Quizzes - 20%
3. Creative writing, essays, poems - 30%
4. Tests, papers, major essays, longer original pieces, and projects - 40%

**General notes:**

1. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced and may occur at any time during the period.
2. Tests will be announced well in advance, and a review will be given.
3. When absent, students must come to me for make-up work . Students may be required to stay after school.

**Have a wonderful learning experience!**

Mrs. Lillian Amadei