

English 12
2016-2017
Ms. McCloud

Welcome to English Literature! This course is designed to engage students in carefully reading and critically analyzing literature. Students should expect course work that is demanding in both quantity and textual difficulty; yet, students who are committed to the demands of a study of literary masterpieces will discover a truly enriching experience. I look forward to the reading, writing, and thinking we will do together this year.

CURRICULUM: The class reading focuses on works of recognized literary merit from various genres and periods—novels, poetry, and plays that invite and reward thorough reading. In addition to regular readings from short works of prose and poetry, the major works students will possibly read include:

Hamlet William Shakespeare
Life of Pi Yann Martel
The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde
Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen
Gulliver's Travels Jonathan Swift
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Robert Louis Stevenson
A Tale of Two Cities Charles Dickens
Great Expectations Charles Dickens
Frankenstein Mary Shelley
Utopia Thomas More
The Prince Machiavelli
Paradise Lost John Milton
The Canterbury Tales Geoffrey Chaucer
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Beowulf

The literature selected for this course requires maturity and dedication to elevating reading skills to a college level. For a valuable, authentic experience, students must commit to reading deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to explore a work's complexity and to absorb its richness in artistry and meaning. Literature study helps (CliffsNotes, SparkNotes, etc.) must be used rarely, if at all, if students are to gain the reading and analysis skills required for success in this class.

Alongside reading and discussion, we will work extensively and strategically to improve the insight and style of our writing through in-class and independent essay writing. Students will also broaden their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. This includes the consideration of a work's structure, style, and theme, as well as smaller-scale elements such as figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

GRADING

- Grades for this class follow a grading scale:

A	94-100%	B	83-86%	C	73%-76%	D	63%-66%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-82%	C-	70%-72%	D-	60%-62%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67%-69%	F	59% and below

- Participation is an integral part of your grade, as the study of literature thrives on discussion. Be willing to contribute insight and listen to your classmates' ideas. There is no way to compensate for poor preparation or a missed discussion or lecture.

ATTENDANCE: Be in class and ready to work when the bell rings. Because of the rigorous pace of the class and importance of participation in any literature study, excessive absences will greatly deter your learning. Make a commitment to prioritize class attendance and active participation.

RESPECT: I expect exemplary citizenship and behavior from all students. Commit to displaying courtesy, integrity, and personal responsibility. This includes respecting the teacher and other students with your attention. It also includes responsibly focusing by not using iPods, cell phones, or other electronic devices.

Respect yourself and our academic community by completing authentic, honest work. Any act of cheating, copying, plagiarizing, allowing a class member to copy, submitting the work of a parent/classmate/online resource as your own, or inappropriately using notes on a test will automatically result in a zero on the assignment and may result in further disciplinary action. Take pride in doing your own work, and doing it well.