

Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition
Fishman
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Spring '08-'09
Syllabus

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 as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. This seminar style course will introduce dedicated students to college level assignments and concepts while preparing them for success on the Advanced Placement Literature and Language exam.

Students enrolled in this course are expected to write extensively. Opportunities for improvement and expansion will be provided. Writing will be evaluated using six – trait and AP style rubrics. Students will also practice responding to multiple choice assessments similar to the Advanced Placement exam. Because this is a seminar, each student is expected to research a topic that the class is exploring and to lead a discussion of that topic as well as to participate in class discussions. Directions, topics, and dates for independent projects will be disseminated later. Success in this class is contingent on masterfully completing all assigned work. Milwaukee Public Schools requires students to pass four years of high school English in order to earn a diploma. Students enrolled in this course must earn a passing grade in order to graduate. They may track their progress using Student or Parent Assistant and ESIS gradebook.

Materials essential for this class are: 1 three ring binder, black or blue pen, lined paper, *Perrine's Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense*, and other assigned texts. Students must have reliable internet access. Also helpful for this class will be: 1 highlighter, post-it notes, index cards, flash drive, and red pen. It will be useful to have a computer, dictionary, and thesaurus at home.

We are a community of learners. To that end and out of respect for all members of the class, the following rules apply-

- Students are expected to attend class prepared to learn every day
- All classwork must be completed in dark ink; homework must be word – processed
- All due dates must be strictly adhered to. If a student has difficulty keeping a deadline s/he must notify the instructor before the due date
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for a mark period
- It is unlikely that a student will be able to make up assignments, if absent
- If appropriate, make up work will be given upon a student's return from absence with a legitimate written excuse. Students will have no more that the length of their absences to submit their make up work. If school deadlines such as grades closing interfere with this window, school deadlines take precedence
- Absent students must make their own arrangements to obtain notes from missed classes
- Under no circumstances will students be given permission to leave during class; take care of hygiene concerns and personal business outside of class
- *Love the One You're With* – students may not use **any** electronic devices in class (phones, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc.). If detected, the instructor may confiscate devices and return them only at her discretion.
- Requests for recommendations must be submitted in writing at least two weeks in advance. The instructor is not obligated to honor these requests.
- Exam exemptions may be granted to seniors who meet all RUHS criteria for exemption and take the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition exam.
- Students who are regularly inattentive, sleep, absent, or otherwise off task should not expect to earn a grade better than a C in this course and may fail as a consequence of their poor behavior

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Riverside's Homework Policy:

The policy of Riverside University High School is to assign homework in all classes. Research has demonstrated that schools that require homework show higher student achievement than schools that make little use of it. Increased homework time results in higher grades for students of all ability levels. Homework also develops responsibility, self-reliance, and resourcefulness which are requisite skills for success in post-secondary endeavors.

Student Guidelines:

write all homework assignments and due dates in your assignment book clearly and accurately
show pride in your work
be neat and accurate
all homework must include a heading (name, date, hour)
have your completed homework **in class, on time**, at the beginning of class
devise a system for keeping returned homework in preparation for final exams

Student Consequences:

all work is required to be completed; full credit can be earned only for homework turned in on time.
late homework is discouraged and will be assessed at the teacher's discretion.
If accepted, homework turned in one day late will earn one grade lower
no credit will be given for homework more than 3 days late.

Students who are involved in in-house field trips and music lessons:

are to turn in their homework and get their assignments before leaving for the event
are responsible for making up any classwork and/or missed instruction

Students who are absent must:

ask a reliable friend for the missed assignments or notes
contact the teacher upon their return to find if they've missed instruction of a new concept
understand that the teacher cannot be able to address their concerns immediately at the beginning of class;
they may have to arrange to speak with the teacher before or after school

Homework Frequency and Duration:

homework is a component of the grade in this course, an extension of classwork.
students should expect homework to be assigned daily, informally.
there will be occasional weekend homework
students who participate in extracurricular activities or hold a job are still expected to complete their homework

Grading Policy

Student grades will be based on their performance on class and homework assignments with the most weight given to essays and tests. Assignments will be graded with standard A – U grades, rubrics or points. Letter grades and rubrics translate as follows:

A / AD / 90 – 100	B / PR / 80 – 89
C / BA / 70 – 79	D / MI / 60 – 69
U / 0 - 59	

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Semester Outline

Unit I: Poetry Redux: Sonnet, Blackberries

Unit II: Introduction to Colonialism and Post-Colonial Theory

Shakespeare *The Tempest*

Conrad *Heart of Darkness*

Unit III: Native American Literature: Silko *Ceremony*

Unit IV: Structure, Voice, Theme, Character, Setting: Kingsolver *Poisonwood Bible*

Unit IV: The Quintessential American Novel: *Song of Solomon* Toni Morrison, *Strange Fruit*

In addition to the topics outlined above, students will regularly study pertinent vocabulary and literary terms and devices. Students will be assigned individual projects in addition to classwork.

Students will have opportunity to practice and review for the AP exam, Thursday, May 7th. Dates, topics, and titles are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.