Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

Mr. Reiter

Class Introduction/ Expectations

Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition is designed to enhance the student’s ability to critically read more advanced, dense texts. It is my goal for you to build upon what you’ve learned to this point in the areas of reading and writing. Through close reading and various types of writing assignments, you will learn to consider why authors write the way they do. We will examine the main literary avenues of fiction and non-fiction novels, drama, and poetry. By the end of the year, you will be able to discuss and analyze complex texts. Everything we do in class on a day-to-day basis will help prepare the student for the AP Literature and Composition test in May; however, that is not the sole reason for what we do in class.

The AP English Literature and Composition packet from the College Board states the following:

*“In short, students in an AP English Literature and Composition course read actively. The works taught in the course require careful, deliberative reading. And 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 the meaning and value of a piece of writing.”*

The packet goes on to say the following:

*“The writing required in an AP English Literature and Composition course is thus more than a mere adjunct to the study of literature. The writing that students produce in the course reinforces their reading. Since reading and writing stimulate and support one another, they are taught together in order to underscore both their common and their distinctive elements.”*

Aside from the AP aspects of this class, all juniors at Castle High School are educated in the areas of formal writing and research-based writing. These complex assignments will require time management, commitment, and active learning of Modern Language Association (MLA) style rules. The Castle English Department requires that the junior English student complete an MLA research paper each semester. We will go through the pre-writing, drafting, and peer editing stages of the writing process in these assignments. Just like anything in life, the more you put into each step the better the result. I will be available during these steps to meet individually with you if you choose. If you find yourself struggling at this point, please take the time to set up a meeting with me.

Grading Scale:

The grades behind this class will simulate the way a college class operates. Instead of worksheets and smaller quiz and participation grades, this class will revolve around your actual thought and work ethic. Formal writing assignments, class discussions, informal writing activities, and depth of understanding the literature will account for your grade in this class.

The grading scale for this class is as follows:

A 95-100

A- 92-94

B+ 89-91

B 86-88

B- 83-85

C+ 80-82

C 77-79

C- 74-76

D+ 71-73

D 68-70

D- 65-67

F 0-64

Participation

Because the goal of this class is to enrich the student’s understanding and passion for literature, our classroom will rely on class discussion. The student is encouraged to speak up and share with his/her classmates when we “circle up” and discuss the literature. Also, there will be many days when participation takes the shape of various types of writings over a passage or quote from the previous night’s reading. The student’s composition notebook will be collected each quarter and will be included in the student’s participation grade.

Late Work Policy:

One of the most important aspects of this class is the student’s maturity and accountability. All formal writing assignments will be assigned in advance; it is the student’s responsibility to manage his/her time to complete the assignment on or before the due date with all requirements fulfilled. There are no excuses in terms of printer failure or lack of computer availability. If you are absent on a due date that was predetermined, it is your responsibility to get the paper to me. You can have it dropped off in my mailbox in the main office, given to me by a friend or sibling, or emailed to me to [mreiter@warrick.k12.in.us](mailto:mreiter@warrick.k12.in.us). It is your responsibility to take care of this within the bounds of the due date.

The consequence is quite simple for not having one’s work present with him/her at the beginning of class on the due date. If he/she can get the assignment to me personally before the end of the school day, he/she will lose 50% of the grade. If I do not receive it by the end of the day, the student will receive a zero on the assignment, no excuses whatsoever. If a circumstance arises where your meeting the deadline may be compromised, it is your responsibility to come see me, or at the very least email me. If you cannot communicate with me, I cannot help you.

Materials Needed

The materials needed for this class are all required so the student can read actively and annotate the readings we do in class. Writing over literature will require us to pull the text out of the literature so we can examine it and discuss it.

-Composition Notebook

-Post-it Notes

-Index Cards

-Loose leaf paper

\*A binder is optional. I will not do “binder checks,” but if you’d like to keep yourself organized and this helps you….do it! A part of growing as a reader and student is knowing how YOU learn best.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of cheating or taking someone else’s original work and passing it off as your own. This is not tolerated in any aspect. This can range from copying another student’s answers on a quiz to copying and pasting portions of a formal paper. The penalty for plagiarism is a zero, no discussion.

Turnitin.com

In order to prevent plagiarism, we will be using [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) as a way for students to double-check their work against multiple data bases of papers and writings to avoid plagiarism. An originality report will be submitted for all major writings we complete in class. We will occasionally use this website as a vehicle to turn in assignments electronically as well. You will be given the username and password for this class on the first day of school.

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I have read the information above and agree to the terms and requirements.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Parents/ Legal Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents’/ Legal Guardians’ contact information: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(Student Signature)

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(Parent/Legal Guardian Signature)