

Mr. Graham

AP English 5-6

- **Course Description**

This is a college-level course designed for highly motivated students performing above the grade level in language arts. We will explore a broad range of American literature, reflecting various ranges of genres and historical periods; however, the focus is rhetorical analysis in preparation for the international A.P. Language and Composition spring exam. We will examine Word Level Considerations: literal and figurative language, including diction, denotation, connotation, analogy, metaphor, irony, understatement and hyperbole; Sentence Level Considerations: syntax; simple, compound, and complex structures; logical and fallacious statements; paradox; parallel, periodic and inverted sentences; and Total Considerations: logical and fallacious reasoning; modes of discourse; analysis and evaluation; tonal development and style.

- **Course Readings**

The main text is *American Traditions in Literature*. We will read several short stories, essays, plays and poems from this text. We will also be using *Everyday Use: Rhetorical work in Reading and Writing*. We will also read several novels during the year including McBride's *Color of Water*, Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, and Wright's *Native Son*. We will also read the following dramatic works: William Shakespeare's *Othello*, and Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. A test will follow each novel and extended literature unit. There will be a weekly reading of selected fictional writing.

- **Composition**

Students will write a variety of full-process essays during the course of the year: including persuasive, source synthesization, literary analysis, reflective and expository. These full-process essays must be formatted in MLA guidelines. Students will also write timed in-class essays on a weekly basis specifically designed to prepare you for the A.P. Language and Composition spring exam. There will be one MLA research paper assigned. There is an oral presentation connected to the paper.

- **Deadlines**

Assignments are collected on the specific due dates. No late work will be accepted unless absences are excused. You will have two days to make up an assignment assigned on the day of your absence. **Any assignment that was due on the day of your absence is due upon your return. If you are on campus, but not in class, on a day that an assignment is due that assignment must be turned in to me in my classroom or in my office box before you leave or by 2:15; otherwise, it will be counted late.**

- **Summer Reading and Composition Assignment**

Students are to read Frederick Douglass' *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Be prepared to take a comprehensive exam on both novels the first two days of class.

Respond to the following topic in a 1000-word essay. Word count should be in heading. Your paper should have a focused thesis and have topic sentences that support the general point of the paper. **The paper should include at least three quotes (one per body paragraph); with documentation and quotation marks (cited by page number)-all quotes should be between one to three sentences long. They do not count towards your word count.**

The paper and outline are due on the first day of class. NO EXCEPTIONS.

1. *The Great Gatsby* (Write on the following subject)

How does *Gatsby* represent the American dream? What does the novel have to say about the condition of the American dream in the 1920s? In what ways do the themes of dreams, wealth, and time relate to each other in the novel's exploration of the idea of America?

The essay should be typed 12-point font, double-spaced with one-inch margins.

2. Outlining Assignment: Minimum three-page (but not over five) outlines for *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. The outline must be detailed, specific, and concrete. Outlines are in (I, II, III, A, B, C) form. Respond in 12-pt. font and 1.5 spacing with one-inch margins. Your outline must reflect an analytical understanding of the novel. Do not simply produce a chapter by chapter outline. Your outline should capture the essential plot developmental chunks of the novel.

Outline the entire plot sequence of the book, for example:

II. Rising Action

A. Incident

i. Commentary

ii. Commentary

B. Incident

i. Commentary

ii. Commentary

Failure to complete ALL summer assignments results in a 0% / F.

++ The completed writing assignment is due the first day of school. NO EXCEPTIONS. Students should also save a digital copy of the summer paper to submit to Schoology/ Turnitin during the first week of school. ++

Thank-you