

Mr. Schmidt
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12th Grade AP English Literature
Rm. #113
Thomas Downey High School
2023-2024 Course Outline + Summer Assignment

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP English Literature is a highly intensive course designed to mature students' analytical and writing skills. The course's primary objective is to prepare students for the rigors and expectations of college English. Its second is to equip students with the skills necessary to take and pass the English Literature AP test. To that end, this course will examine poetry, drama, and literature from Classical Greece to modern works.

TEXTS

This year, we will be reading from among the following texts:

DRAMA

The Lion in Winter by James Goldman
Antigone by Sophocles
Oedipus Rex by Sophocles
Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Hamlet by William Shakespeare
Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

WORKS IN VERSE

Beowulf
The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer (selections)

NOVELS

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Grendel by John Gardner
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
In Our Time by Ernest Hemingway (collection of short stories)
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey
All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

POETRY

Poetry will cover literary periods ranging from the Renaissance to modern day. Additional assorted short stories, articles, and literary criticism will also be part of the course's content.

NOTES ON READING

This is a college-level course. If you don't enjoy reading and writing, then you should re-think taking this course. You will be required to read most nights. **Online summaries are no substitutes, as they will deter you from thinking critically.** This is an interactive environment, so your enthusiastic involvement is an integral part of the class and our learning. Be prepared to read, write, talk and learn in an intensive but supportive environment. Also, the literature we will study and discuss will sometimes focus on mature themes. They will not be our sole emphasis, but be prepared to study novels and plays that sometimes deal with language and situations that require a mature attitude and perspective.

RULES FOR BEHAVIOR

My class rules are: be **respectful**, be **prepared**, and be **professional**. I will hold myself as well as you to these rules. If you are having issues with another student or in other aspects of your life that make it difficult to follow these rules, **talk to me. Let me know.** I will help you deal with these issues in a positive way and get you the help you need.

Be respectful:

In this class, I will respect your opinions. In return, you will show respect to your fellow classmates and to me. This involves **listening attentively** and **being respectful** when disagreeing. Bullying or mockery of other students in any form will not be tolerated. Our words and actions have consequences—to ourselves and to others.

Be prepared:

You are responsible for coming prepared to class each and every day. This means that you will bring: your (charged) laptop, pencils, blue or black pens, binder paper, a spiral notebook, a three-ring binder, Post-Its, and the required book(s) for the day. If you need supplies, talk to me—I keep extras. You will also follow our classroom **procedures** as discussed later in this outline.

Be professional:

Phones should be out of sight, put on silent, and remain in your pockets, backpacks, or purses *unless* I say that it is okay to use them for an assignment. MP3 players and earphones should be out of sight *unless* I say it is okay to listen to them.

Tardiness is unprofessional and disrespectful to your instructor. (SEE: "CITIZENSHIP" section below)

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the copying of someone else's work, whether a published author or a classmate, with the intent to deceive the readers into thinking they are reading original work; plagiarism is "to take and use the ideas or writings of another" (including AI) without proper attribution and documentation. At this point in your academic career, you should know that plagiarism and cheating is unprofessional and unacceptable. Universities and employers will not stand for it, and neither will I. Students caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating will receive a "0" on the assignment in question, a "U" in citizenship for the **semester**, and **no** letters of recommendation of any sort from me (I will also contact universities/ scholarship committees to **rescind** any previous letters already sent and explain the nature of your academic dishonesty). I may also remove you from the course, since plagiarism would indicate that you cannot handle the expectations of AP English Literature. Remember: *I know the websites that you know. I know what they write. I know how they write.* Don't risk it.

DISCIPLINE

Disobeying the classroom rules as outlined above may result in being kept after class or during lunch for a discussion of how to correct issues in your academic behavior. Serious violations will result in in-school suspensions and Saturday school referrals.

PROCEDURES

When you enter class, find your seat and check the front board. The first activity of the day will be listed under “**DO NOW**,” which you should have already begun when the bell rings. You should be in your seat when the bell rings and ready to work.

I give out hall passes at my discretion. That means that I will allow a bathroom pass **if** it does not interrupt the class or your learning. Otherwise, just take care of business before or after class.

Finally— I dismiss you, not the bell.

ASSIGNMENTS

In the upper left-hand corner of each assignment you turn in, write your name, period, and the day’s date. Typed assignments (essays, projects, etc.) should be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-pt font with 1-inch margins and follow the *Modesto City Schools Writing and Literacy Handbook* guidelines. Purdue’s Online Writing Lab is a fantastic resource as well (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>).

Your assignments will include: in-class participation, group work, journal assignments, homework, reading assignments, projects, essays, quizzes, exams, and mandatory AP exam study sessions in the spring. Exams may contain multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. **NOTE: It is your responsibility to e-mail or share with me via Google Docs assignments that are due on days that you are absent by the start of that day’s class.**

LATE POLICY & MAKE-UP WORK

In the real world of college and careers, there will be tough consequences for not completing jobs or tasks on time. The same is true for this class. Late work, therefore, will **not** be accepted (**SEE: “ASSIGNMENTS”** section above). I will always give you a reasonable amount of time to complete your assignments. It is your job to manage your time effectively. I will only make exceptions for serious, unexpected circumstances, and only then on a case-by-case basis.

If you are absent, check the daily folders at the back of the room for the assignments you missed and information on due dates. You have two days to make up your work for every day you missed as per district policy. I offer quiz makeups on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch or after school.

GRADING POLICY

I will use two types of grading systems: credit or no credit assignments and A-F grades using the +/— system:

A 93 – 100%	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%	B- 80-82%
C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%	D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%
D- 60-62%	F 0-59%			

Extra credit will be offered occasionally, so there will be no rounding up of grades at the end of each quarter. I would not want to spoil you, after all.

ATTENDANCE AND CITIZENSHIP

Three or more unexcused absences in a quarter will result in an unsatisfactory citizen mark; **five** or more unexcused tardies in a quarter will result in an unsatisfactory citizenship mark. To receive an “Outstanding” citizenship mark, students must actively participate in class and offer valuable input.

THE AP ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

You are expected to take the May AP exam. If you do, you will be excused from the spring semester final exam. If you do not take it, you will take a previous year’s 3-hour AP exam, which be counted in your final semester grade.

FINAL ADVICE/ CONTACT ME

Senior year is the culmination of your high school academic career. You will have many demands on your time. Prioritize. Enjoy this final year at TDHS, but not at the expense of your studies. The best way to get in touch with me is to e-mail me at: schmidt.p@monet.k12.ca.us. We will also use the Remind app; I reply to Remind texts in a timely manner, but remember that you are texting a teacher, not a friend. I am available to meet with students during lunch and after school. Making appointments to see me is advisable, but feel free to drop by anytime for college talk, career talk, class talk, personal issues, or whatever else you need.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

Part One: Read Two Works

1. *Things Fall Apart*
2. *Pygmalion*

Both of the books are available in the TDHS library. Quizzes on these two works may be administered during the first weeks of school in the fall.

Part Two: Complete Two Reading Charts

Complete the two reading charts dealing with elements such as topics, themes, conflicts, characters and their characterizations, etc. These will prepare you for our in-class discussions, assignments, and assessments on the summer reading during the first weeks of the fall semester. Copies of these are found in the library as well as with me in #113 before summer vacation begins; if you lose yours over the summer, e-mail me, and I’ll send you additional copies to print out and complete.