



## **English 12: Composition & Literature Course Outline & Syllabus 2015-2016**

### **Course Description**

Throughout the year, considerable emphasis will be placed on a variety of writing skills and forms, including expository, argumentative, persuasive, narrative, creative and research. Literary fiction and non-fiction will be read and examined for the purpose of modeling literary elements such as figurative language, description, imagery, style, tone, and point of view. Students will gain an appreciation for 20th and 21st century authors through an examination of noteworthy literary selections. Writing assignments will be based on an understanding and interpretation of the elements found in assigned readings.

Through close reading of literary texts, students will come to understand how writers use language to provide meaning and to answer the big questions in literature and in life. Students will engage in analytical and critical thinking and writing throughout the course. Students will also focus on improving their vocabulary through the use of all assigned materials.

### **Course Outcomes**

In this course students will improve close reading and analytical strategies. Students will:

- read, analyze, and react to a wide variety of literature, recognizing literary devices, and distinguishing various genres
- write expository and persuasive essays that analyze dramas, novels and non-fiction
- respond directly and effectively to questions requiring a timed essay
- relate the content of the literature to the real world
- advance vocabulary skills to cope with unfamiliar language

### **Methods of Instruction**

Considerable emphasis will be placed on strengthening writing skills through the use of the writing process. Students will have an opportunity to explore a variety of creative and prescribed types of writing. Because the connection between writing and literature is of primary importance, reading will be an integral part of the class. A variety of literary genres (short stories, essays, plays, and novels) will be explored through literary periods, historical context and/or theme. Reading, discussing, and writing about fiction and non-fiction texts are the primary ways in which students come to understand a particular passage or concept. Some assigned texts are to be read independently, in addition to other course texts.

### **Writing about Literature**

- Students will write a variety of essays (persuasive, analytical, expository) over the course of the year, many timed and in class. While all essays expect general rhetorical excellence, each one has a particular thematic or analytical focus.
- In addition to writing essays, students will also write reflective, more personal responses to literature and various topics throughout the year in their writers' notebooks

### **Resources/Texts**

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *Hamlet* or *Othello* by William Shakespeare
- *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
- Independent novel(s)
- Various non-fiction texts

## Additional Resources:

Titles listed below are taught in English 9 - 11. We will use this literature as a basis for comparison, writing prompts, background knowledge, themes, and other literary devices for analysis throughout the year.

- *Romeo & Juliet*, Shakespeare
- *Anthem*, Rand
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Lee
- *The Odyssey*, Homer
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain
- *The Crucible*, Miller
- *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald
- *Oedipus the King*, Sophocles
- *Night*, Wiesel
- *A Doll's House*, Ibsen

## Assessment & Grading

RHS has a unified and common grading scale for all courses. The following scale will be used to determine the letter grade assigned to each student for each class taken:

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

Assessments and daily practice are important factors in determining student mastery of course content. The following method will be used by all certified staff to arrive at a marking period / quarter grade:

Summative Assessments	=	90% of entire grade
Formative Assessments	=	10% of entire grade

A semester grade is made up two marking period / quarter grades and a mid-term or final exam. All courses will administer a final exam. The semester grade will be calculated by using the following formula:

Marking Period 1 / Quarter Grade	=	40%
Marking Period 2 / Quarter Grade	=	40%
Mid-Term/Final Exam	=	20%

## Course Outline

### 1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER

- Vocabulary and grammar assignments and quizzes
- Various non-fiction texts (AoWs)
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

### 2<sup>nd</sup> SEMESTER

- Vocabulary and grammar assignments and quizzes
- Various non-fiction texts (AoWs)
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
- *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
- *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller



## English 12: Composition & Literature Course Materials, Policies & Procedures 2015-2016

### COURSE MATERIALS

#### Supplies

1. A binder, folder or notebook. At this point, you know how to organize your class materials. No one system is mandated, however you must have some way to keep track of handouts, notes, and assignments for this class. Whatever method you choose (folder, etc.), you must bring it to class every day, without exception, for use during the class period.

**DUE IN CLASS BY      Monday, September 14, 2015**

2. Pens and pencils – you cannot write without them; a highlighter is necessary for taking notes.
3. Your FULLY CHARGED Chromebook. You must have this in class every day ready to use for class activities and assignments.

### CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. All written work will be graded on how well you have met the specific goals/objectives for a given assignment as well as personal improvement. Your accomplishments will not be measured against that of other students with regard to personal writing ability. All students are expected to improve. A primary goal of this class is clarity of expression. However, considerable emphasis is placed on fiction and non-fiction, and your writing will demonstrate the quality of your reading.
2. All major writing assignments, including poetry, must be typed. Some assignments will be submitted online while others are required to be submitted in hard copy format.
3. This is a reading and writing class, so you will be expected to write almost every day. Many assignments will be shared with the class. At times, you will be required to make oral presentations of your poems/stories/essays to the class.
4. **“Manic Mondays”** Mondays are a very busy “housekeeping” day in English 12. Every Monday students will receive vocabulary assignments, a grammar assignment, and a Reading and Writing (RAW) article for close reading focus. Students will be quizzed on weekly vocabulary and grammar, and online journals will be checked weekly for RAW reflections and close reading practice. If you are absent on a Monday, it is your responsibility to ask for the week’s work. Students will not be excused from assessments due to absence or lack of responsibility in obtaining the assignments.
5. **Tests:** If a student is absent the day of a test, s/he must take the test within two days after returning to school. Failure to do this will result in a zero for that test grade. If a student is absent the day before a test, but is aware of the scheduled test date and material to be covered on the test, then the student must take the test on the scheduled date.

6. **Written assignments:** "On time" is defined as at the beginning of the hour on the day the assignment is due. If you miss class on the day a paper is due, but you are in school for part of that day, you are expected to submit the paper that day. A student who is absent the day before an assignment is due is required to hand the assignment in on time.
  
7. **Plagiarism** is the "intentional and unauthorized misrepresentation of another's work as one's own." In addition, any unethical practice which compromises the integrity or intent of an assignment or assessment shall be deemed plagiarism/cheating and will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook.  
  
**NOTE:** Do not cheat – you learn nothing, but I learn a great deal about you.
  
8. **Behavioral Expectations:** Respect for others is mandatory. No student is to conduct himself or herself in a manner that interferes with other students' opportunity to learn. No student may conduct himself or herself in a manner that interferes with my ability to teach. Please refer to the student handbook for further information regarding school policies for behavioral expectations.
  
9. **Late Work:** Students are expected to turn in work on time. Late work will be accepted one day after the due date for a 20% reduction in grade. Work submitted beyond one day late will not be accepted.
  
10. **Re-takes:** You may retake a formative assessment. Please refer to the RHS English Department Formative Assessment Retake Policy for details. **NOTE:** Students may not retake a formative assessment after the summative assessment for the assigned unit has been administered.

If you give your best effort, turn in all work on time, and adhere to the course objectives, you are almost guaranteed to do well. Keep this in mind while completing your assignments.

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"If you cannot write well, you cannot think well; if you cannot think well, others will do your thinking for you."

-- George Orwell

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