

AP English: 11th Grade
Mr. Olson: 2011 – 2012

Overview

This course will focus extensively on college-level writing and rhetorical/reading analysis. The course will aid students in passing the AP test as well as prepare them for their senior year and college.

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways: research paper/s, in-class essays, paragraphs, quick writes, tests, quizzes and homework. Approximately 40% of the grade will be based on writing. Tests and quizzes will also account for approximately 40%; the remaining percentage will mainly be homework.

The majority (if not all) of the material below will be read throughout the year:

Novels

Beloved – Toni Morrison*

A Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

The Catcher in the Rye – J. D. Salinger

The Crucible – Arthur Miller

Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury

The Scarlet Letter – Nathaniel Hawthorne

(possibly one more)

**Beloved* is a challenging novel to read. Its structure can be quite confusing at times, which is why it has been chosen. Atop of the structural difficulty is its content. It can be disturbing at times. Nevertheless, *The New York Times* has labeled it as “the single best work of American fiction published in the last 25 years.” To say the least, it is AP material.

Other Reading

“Self-Reliance” – Ralph Waldo Emerson, in its entirety

Glencoe American Literature Textbook (very little)

Norton Reader

Various supplemental readings provided by the teacher and students

Timeline for Various Units/Lessons

--The previously mentioned novels will be separated into units ranging from 2 – 4 weeks (longer for *Beloved*).

--Vocabulary words as well as literary and rhetorical terms will be given throughout both semesters.

--The writing process will be both semesters on a near weekly basis.

--In class reading will occur on a regular basis.

Major Focuses of Course

Rhetorical Analysis

Synthesis (including MLA and footnotes): Integrating Sources

Persuasion/Argument: Stating Opinions and Proposals (Counterclaims, Concessions, Refutations and Assertions)

Narration: Telling a Story

Description: Writing with Your Senses

Comparison and Contrast: Setting Things Side by Side

Example: Pointing to Instances

Definition: Tracing a Boundary

Process Analysis: Explaining Step by Step

Division or Analysis: Slicing into Parts

Classification: Sorting into Kinds

- Italicized focuses will be concentrated on much heavier than focuses not italicized.

(continued on back)

Miscellaneous Homework

- Homework will be nightly, including weekends and holidays.
- Homework will never be accepted late unless previously cleared with the teacher or in the event of an emergency. The teacher will determine what is or is not an emergency.
- Students are responsible for contacting their fellow students to receive homework instructions that were missed due to an absence (or absences). Students have exchanged phone numbers in class to accommodate this. Hence, homework, be it writing or reading, will be collected/assessed immediately upon return from the day/s they missed as well as the current day.

Reading Homework

The reading will be intense. Most often it will be nightly. Quizzes to assess the nightly reading will occur at the beginning of the period; the quizzes will occur the first class day after the reading assignment. Make-up reading quizzes must be taken the day upon return (before school, during lunch or after school).

All reading is mandatory. A student cannot opt out of a novel because he or she finds it disturbing or objects to its content. Everything has been chosen for a purpose. I welcome discussions concerning my purpose for choosing the novels/readings that I do.

Grading System (roughly...can be altered)

90 – 100% = A	60 – 69% = D
80 – 89% = B	59.9% & below = F
70 – 79% = C	

There is rarely any extra credit except for the “3 X 5” cards.

Organization

Students are expected to be organized. How they organize is up to them, but if their organization impedes learning or instruction (e.g., can’t find homework), parents will be informed.

Attendance

Attendance is crucial, especially with a block schedule. This is AP English. It is a college course on a high school campus, and it is designed to aid in the passing of the AP Exam in May. Every minute is vital. If you are going to miss for any extended time (more than one class), contact me immediately: kolson@murrieta.k12.ca.us or 894-5750, extension 6607.

Tardy Policy

Students who are tardy will be assigned after school detention. If a student is tardy more than three times, that student will be assigned Saturday school for each tardy after the third. Also, tardy students will receive a 0 (zero) on the in-class quizzes that will be taken at the beginning of the period. Hence, being tardy will tremendously impact the student’s grade.

A Final Note

I will give you my best as a teacher; however, you are responsible for your own education. This class will be fast-paced, challenging, and enjoyable if you keep up and participate. Now, let’s have a great year!

And remember:

CHARACTER...

LEADERSHIP...

ATTITUDE...

SCHOLARSHIP...

SERVICE...