

English 12

Course Description, Peeves & Assorted Threats

Looking back over the last several years of teaching this class, I have to ask myself – why bother? Why do seniors, about to embark on their future—be it a first year at some swanky college, a year abroad, or a career as a Bonsai tree pruner —need this class?

The answer is two-part:

1. So they graduate with a certain amount of cultural literacy, capable of catching the allusions to classic literature that bombard them on a daily basis.
2. So they can write a solid thoughtful response to a prompt when someone is holding a stopwatch to their heads.

Simple.

My syllabus would end here if weren't for the fact that I'm supposed to threaten you with class rules to legally bind you to do what by now should be common sense:

Glossary of Terms

CURRICULUM: After constructing the college application essay and writing a persuasive paper to work out some of the summer kinks, this year's course will be structured around the theme "What Makes a Monster?" Studying a variety of literature in conjunction with social and political philosophy and contemporary commentary, you will be expected to read and analyze both fiction and non-fiction. In adhering to new state standards and college expectations, the emphasis on writing will be expository not literary analysis.

The literary works we will be reading include:

<i>Beowulf</i>	<i>Grendel</i>	<i>Macbeth</i>	<i>Frankenstein</i>
<i>The Metamorphosis</i>	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	<i>Beloved</i>	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i>

The social and political philosophy being studied include works from

Rousseau	Nietzsche	Thoreau	Lyotard
Plato	Machiavelli	Freud	Gould

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: I distribute detailed daily assignment sheets every few weeks. This eliminates confusion (and unfortunately for some of you) excuses! I rarely remind you of homework assignments; I expect you to know when they're due. ***If you have been absent, consult the assignment sheet for what you missed then TELL ME what you need.***

GRADES: You will receive a letter grade and an assigned number of points on most assignments. Grades on major assignments are based on detailed criteria. You will always know in advance what 's expected BEFORE it's inspected!

Participation points: Students are expected to earn participation points, which is to say that you have raised your hand and contributed a meaningful response to a discussion; participated in class activity or given a thoughtful written responses to another student's

paper or presentation. Participation Points require that you be present to play. They cannot be made up except through extra credit provisions. You can lose participation points if you fail to come prepared to class(this includes being late) or if you interfere with others' learning.

Grades are calculated on a cumulative basis for each semester based on the following percent scale: 94-100, A; 93-90, A-; 89-86, B+; 85-84, B; 83-80, B-; 79-76, C+; 75-74, C; 73-70, C-; 69-66, D+; 65-64, D; 63-60, D-; 59--0, F.

LATE PAPERS: Aughhh!

If you've been sick, all work may be made up with one day extension given for each day absent. Otherwise-NO late homework.

Major papers will have a due date and final date after which no papers will be accepted...My advice? Turn it in on time.

MAKE-UP TESTS AND QUIZZES: See ya at tutorial. I announce deadlines for make-ups, but I do not personally remind you. Scrappy quizzes (aka a 1-2 ques pop quiz given at the end of the period to see if you had a pulse that day) CANNOT be made up.

MLA FORMAT: you will soon be chanting the MLA handbook in your sleep. I am picky about this. The MLA format is followed by colleges and universities nation wide. Learn it now.

- MLA documentation is expected on all papers
- All major papers and essay final drafts are to be word-processed.

NOTE TAKING: Your key to survival in this class. Periodically notes will be collected and graded. Therefore I suggest loose-leaf paper and a binder rather than a notebook for this class.

PET PEEVES: Things that personally annoy Mrs. Williamson. To avoid being peevish, do the following:

- If you **MUST** eat, be discreet!
- Always have a pen at the ready—**assignments written in pencil receive no credit and cannot be made up.**
- Raise your hand before speaking or you may be mistaken for a barking dog and cast outside

Referrals granted to anyone acting uncivilized.

PLAGIARISM: a beast that destroys your reputation and your grade. Plagiarism takes on many forms—from an improperly documented research paper to a paragraph or two borrowed from a friend's homework—regardless, **papers that are plagiarized receive an automatic "F."** You've been warned.

PORTFOLIO: a folder kept in class in which you keep and log your assignments as they are returned to you. All major papers will be stowed in your portfolio where you will chart your own progress and mastery of certain skills.

WRITING WORKSHOPS: Modeled after a college writing workshop, students will be expected to share their written work in groups for peer editing, proofreading, and assessment.

Analy High School

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August 20, 2008

To: The parents of English 12 students

Thank you in advance for reviewing the “Glossary of Terms” for English 12. English 12 is a rigorous college prep course that moves at a brisk pace. If your student is not planning to attend a 4-year college immediately upon graduation, he or she may be better served by taking Senior English which still meets graduation requirements and prepares students for junior college. If your student is contemplating a change, it is best to speak to a counselor now while space is still available in Senior English.

In addition to the rigors outlined in the course syllabus, we will be viewing four films over the course of the year. To save time and trees, I am seeking your permission for your child’s viewing of these films in advance. The films include Polanski’s Macbeth, and Scotland PA—a contemporary version of Macbeth; Apocalypse Now which is shown in conjunction with their study of Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness; and excerpts from Pleasantville shown to illustrate some of the tenets of postmodernism.

Alternative assignments are available for those students who do not wish to view the films or who are not granted permission by their parents. Feel free to contact me at the high school (824-2300 x2060) for further clarification.

I am looking forward to a great year and plan to send these seniors off with a bang, not a whimper!

Sincerely,

Lynette Williamson



I have read the syllabus for English 12. I am also granting permission for

_____ to view the above named films.
(please print student’s name)

signature of parent/guardian

Signed permission slips must be returned by Monday, August 25th...thanks!