



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

Honors English 11 2014-2015

Course Description: Through a series of absorbing experiences in reading literature, analyzing literary and thematic forms and devices, and reflecting on historical development, students will gain a heightened awareness of World Literature. The course will focus on the following thematic concepts: the triumph of the human spirit, the value of individuality and human nature, the conflict of fate vs. free will, and the effects of chaos and violence in society. Students will study the human search for final answers through the evaluation of both traditional and modern contexts enabling them to define, in discussion and on paper, their personal positions regarding the quality and nature of existence. Students will also complete a literary criticism research paper in MLA format. Summer reading list is available on the district website.

Course Content: This course will be comprised of the following units:

Short Stories and Plays: Lessons will focus on analysis and interpretation of various brief works of literature. Students will demonstrate understanding of the formal elements of writing.

Novels: Lessons will focus on analysis and interpretation of complex works of literature throughout the world and throughout the ages. Students will read texts, record reactions and insights, conduct research, create projects, and discuss modern equivalents to major elements of plot and theme.

Research Paper: Lessons will assist students in conducting research and writing a formal literary critical analysis paper. Students will utilize technology, the Six Write Traits, and MLA format to complete the paper. Students will complete various written assignments with specific purposes and focus area corrections.

Vocabulary/SAT Prep: Students will study and memorize spelling the definitions of 250 vocabulary words as preparation for the SAT test. Students will also practice specific exercises from the test having to do with short readings and vocabulary. A supplementary list of 500 SAT words will also be made available. Vocabulary in the context of literature will also be studied.

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials:

Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. New York: Washington Square Press New Folger Edition, 1992.

Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. New York: Grove Press, 1967.

Coelho, Paulo. *The Alchemist*. New York: HarperCollins, 2006.

Sophocles. *The Three Theban Plays*. Translated by Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin 1982.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. New York: Riverhead Books. 2003.

Weisel, Elie. *Night*. Translated by Marion Weisel. New York: Hill and Wang. 1958/2006.

Camus, Albert. *The Stranger*. Translated by Matthew Ward. New York: Random House. 1988.

Hersey, John. *Hiroshima*. New York; NY: Vintage Books, 1946/1980.

Course Requirements: Each student is required to complete all tests, quizzes, projects, and in-class and homework assignments. Failure to do so will drastically affect a student's grade. The most important components of a student's grade in Honors English 11 are time management of the reading load and meticulous preparation for class on a daily basis.

Grade Components/Assessments: All assignments will be graded as expressed in the Southern Lehigh High School Student Handbook. Grades will be designated for assignments, tests, quizzes, preparation, and participation. Formal essays will be graded according to the Six Write Traits.

A typical grading scale is as follows:

Summative Assessments (Tests, quizzes, essays, research paper, etc.): 70%

Homework: 20%

Classwork/Participation: 10%

Note: The pre-requisite course grade to qualify for AP English is 82%.

Each marking period grade is worth 20% of the student's overall grade. The final exam is worth 20% of a student's overall average.

Quarter 1 20%

Quarter 2 20%

Quarter 3 20%

Quarter 4 20%

Final Exam 20%

Summer Reading Assignments:

Honors English 11 students are required to read :

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Choice of ONE work from this list:

- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen
- *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekov
- *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

Choice of TWO works from this list:

- *Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards
- *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
- *Atonement* by Ian McEwen (Mature subject matter)
- *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt (Mature subject matter)
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini (Mature subject matter)