



Southern Lehigh School District
High School Syllabus

English 11 2014-2015

Course Description: Through a series of absorbing experiences while 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. Summer reading list is available on the district website.

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

Plays: Lessons will focus on analysis and interpretation of various works of dramatic literature from different time periods. 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.

Writing: Students will utilize technology, the 6 Write Traits, and MLA format to complete various written assignments with specific purposes.

Vocabulary/SAT Prep: Students will study and memorize spelling the definitions of 200 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.

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.

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 English 11 are time management of work load and 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 Assignments: 70% (Tests, quizzes, projects, essays, etc.)

Homework: 20%

Classwork/Participation: 10%

Each marking period is worth 20% of the student's overall grade.

The Final Exam project/exam is worth 20% of a student's overall average.

Quarter 1 20%

Quarter 2 20%

Quarter 3 20%

Quarter 4 20%

Final Exam/Project 20%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

English 11 CP students should choose TWO of the following books to read:

- *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards
- *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt
- *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka
- *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
- *Hiroshima* by John Hersey
- *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak