AP ENGLISH IV SYLLABUS

**2018-19**

Michele Benage

Room 368

Conference period: 1st period (8:50-9:40 am)

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# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This English IV AP course provides a stimulating college-level class that encourages students to develop lifelong reading, writing, and thinking habits while also preparing them to take the AP Literature and Composition Exam in May.

# PHILOSOPHY

The study of literature and the writing about literature are essential because through the reading of literature we gain self-knowledge and insight into the human condition, we discover our commonality with people of other cultures and other times, and we learn to appreciate the beauty of our own language and expression. Through writing and oral discussion, we force ourselves to know what we think and to structure and support those thoughts so that we can communicate with others. What could be more important?

COURSE OF STUDY

Writing, discussion and student choice are at the heart of this English IV AP course. Students will choose titles of literary merit for independent, partner, and small group study. Student choices must reflect diversity of authorial styles, literary period, nationality, and gender. To facilitate understanding and discussion, students will utilize old and new methods of discovery – from the Socratic Seminar to appropriate and useful integration of technology.

In these contexts, students will

* Analyze style in works of fiction, drama, and poetry
* Explore literary theory and apply those concepts to fiction, drama and poetry
* Learn and apply high-level academic vocabulary to works of fiction, drama, and poetry
* Compose and revise college essays
* Integrate research into many modes of writing with appropriate documentation
* Engage in sustained academic discussion
* Practice and analyze Advanced Placement multiple choice questions
* Write AP timed essays
* Compare and contrast works of fiction, drama, and poetry
* Learn and apply Modern Language Association guidelines regarding documentation, citation, and format
* Consider the human condition and how the development of literature over time reflects our struggles, celebrations, and understanding of existence

# TEXTS and MATERIALS

Students are encouraged to buy their own electronic or paperback copies of novels and plays.

Students are expected to bring their charged iPads as well as any current texts to class every day.

### GRADES

* I believe my job is to help students become better writers, readers and, ultimately, thinkers. Therefore, I strive to provide intellectually stimulating and engaging coursework that is relevant and challenging. The expectation is, then, that students will complete all assignments to the best of their abilities. Everyone should be working on English assignments during class at all times.
* I will not deduct points for late work from the assignment. The grade in the gradebook should represent the quality of student work. Sometimes students need more time to do high quality thinking, critical reading, and thoughtful writing, which are the key components of this course. Students must contact me ahead of the deadline to negotiate a reasonable extension.
* However, there will be a “timeliness” grade for each major assignment. The purpose of this is to help students manage their workloads and to allow me to track their timeliness. If a student has a chronic issue with late work, we will determine what the cause is and work to rectify the situation.

If you are unable to turn in your assignment by the designated time,

1. email me ahead of the deadline
2. include a new deadline you set for yourself that is within one week of the original deadline
3. submit work by your reset deadline to avoid a zero timeliness grade
4. email me to alert me that the assignment has been submitted

* Skipping assignments is not permitted. Students will receive an Incomplete for the grading period and/or semester until assignments have been completed.
* The purpose of feedback in this course is to improve students’ reading and writing skills. To that end, students should contact me if they would like to rewrite an assignment that does not reflect mastery.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

80%--These will be major writing assignments.

15%--Daily. This includes small assignments that are part of the process writing. This also includes participation in discussions along with focusing on English work during class time.

5%--Timeliness of assignments

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Assignments are available in Google classroom, and major grades will be submitted to turnitin.com. All assignments are submitted to turnitin.com for evaluation and feedback.

The website calendar is a valuable resource, including deadlines and makeup work information.

Open communication is vital. Please always ask in person or via email if you have questions.

IF YOU ARE ABSENT:

1. Check the calendar.
2. Check Google Classroom for materials
3. Send an email to ask questions if any remain.