

English II Pre-AP

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"The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read 'em."

Mark Twain
Novelist, Journalist

I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.

Abraham Lincoln
President

"...math and science are what makes us advanced. They are what move us forward. But language and literature are what make us human. They're what make us who we are."

Dr. Freeman A Hrabowski, III
President, UMBC

"Literature is no one's private ground, literature is common ground; let us trespass freely and fearlessly and find our own way for ourselves."

Virginia Woolf
Novelist, Essayist

Introduction:

Welcome to English II Pre-AP. This class will hone your critical thinking skills, enrich your work in other disciplines, and help guide you in your quest for wisdom.

We will read, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and research various texts. We will use the writing process to expand our own writing styles.

Writing to explain a literary work involves analysis and interpretation and may include writing brief focused analyses on aspects of language and structure. Writing to evaluate a literary work involves making and explaining judgments about its artistry and exploring its underlying social and cultural values through analysis, interpretation, and argument.

In short, as a student in this course, you will read actively. The works taught in the course require careful, deliberative reading and the approach to analyzing and interpreting the material involves learning how to make careful observations of textual detail, establish connections among their observations, and draw from those connections a series of inferences leading to an interpretive conclusion about a piece of writing's meaning and value. Let us now delve into the wonders of literature...

Student Expectations: Students can expect to learn how to

- develop a personal, critical approach to literature
- develop the vocabulary and structures needed to support critical views in oral and written responses to literature;
- understand the larger framework of our literary tradition through wide and varied reading;
- develop the ability to consciously control elements of style and voice in writing;
- speak and write comfortably and effectively about literature.

This class is designed to make you think. You will question, contribute, discover, and debate one another's ideas.

Classroom Rules

1. **Behavior:** RESPECT, RESPONSE, RESPONSIBILITY are the three rules that set the tone in our community of learners. We will respect ourselves, each other, and the facility; we will respond thoughtfully (not react without thinking) to each other, and we will accept responsibility for our own actions.

Tolerance: Recognizing that other people have different values, beliefs, appearance, and desires is a hallmark of maturity. I will not tolerate language or actions that exclude or demean. Argumentation should be focused on issues and not personality.

- We do **NOT** tolerate the phrase, "Shut up!" It is never appropriate to say that to another student. Please do not use profanity or words like "stupid," or "I can't do it." These are unhelpful and rude.
- Do **NOT** talk while the teacher or other students are talking. If you have a question, please wait and raise your hand at the appropriate time and your question will be answered.
- There is no such thing as a stupid question, and many times other students may have the same question. However, please refrain from interrupting the class with questions that only pertain to you – we may speak about this privately at another time.

*“Unless you try to do something
beyond what you have already
mastered, you will never grow.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Essayist, Poet, Philosopher

*“A thread runs through all things: all
worlds are strung on it as beads and
men, and events, and life, come to us,
only because of that thread.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Essayist, Poet, Philosopher

*“We think we learn from teachers,
and we sometimes do. But the teachers
are not always to be found in school or
in great laboratories. Sometimes what
we learn depends upon our own powers
of insight.”*

Loren Eiseley
“The Hidden Teacher”

Wisdom outweighs any wealth.

Sophocles
Philosopher, Author

2. Follow all directions and abide by all handbook rules.
3. Bring required materials daily – remember that your classmates are not responsible for your preparedness.

Materials Needed Daily

- Pen (black or blue) & pencil
- Binder or folder, with notebook paper
- Highlighters (at least two different colors)
- Any homework or assignments due from previous night
- Novel being studied
- Any other materials as assigned

4. Be in your seat working quietly when the tardy bell rings. Always refer to the board for your assignment.
6. No food or drink or chewing gum in the classroom. The only exception to this is bottled water.
7. Cell phones and other electronic devices are **NOT** to be used in the classroom unless expressly given permission by the teacher. This includes receiving and making phone calls and text messages! Failure to comply with this rule will result in the taking up of the cell phone. Please take care of any business that you may have with your phone before entering the classroom.

Respect for Substitutes. This is an absolute requirement. I will do my best not to be absent from class, but on the occasions that I must be, I expect you to show the utmost respect to the substitute teacher in the room. Subbing can be a difficult and unpleasant experience; this should never be the case in my classroom. If you have a disagreement with a substitute teacher, please wait until I return and let me know the situation. I will be much more interested in helping you if you handle the situation appropriately.

I expect that you will conduct yourselves as mature young adults with an adequate level of common sense. That means that I expect you to deal with everyone in our classroom with respect and courtesy and treat the classroom and entire facility with respect. I expect you to come prepared, follow the school rules, and, most of all, learn to be more responsible for yourself and your behavior.

Consequences

- 1st offense – Warning
- 2nd offense – Teacher directed consequence
- 3rd offense – Teacher contacts parent
- 4th offense – Office Referral

*All offenses are subject to an immediate office referral depending on the severity of the offense.

Classroom Procedures:

Passes

Please try to take care of your needs between classes. If you need to leave class, please come to me to receive a hall pass. Only one person may leave class at a time. If I feel that you are abusing the system, your privileges will be revoked.

Turning in Assignments

When we have homework, have it ready to turn in at the beginning of class. Please do not simply put papers on my desk – this will alleviate any problems of missing papers.

“Reader and writer, we wish each other well. Don’t we want and don’t we understand the same thing? A story of beauty and passion, some fresh approximation of human truth.”

Eudora Welty
Author, Photographer

“Opportunity is missed by some people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

Thomas Edison
Inventor

“I have been a believer in the magic of language since, at a very early age, I discovered that some words got me into trouble and others got me out.”

Katherine Dunn
Novelist, Journalist, Artist, Poet

Required Reading

As pre-AP students, you are expected to keep up with your work and reading. Students are highly encouraged to purchase their own copies of novels being studied in class. Having your own copies will allow you to mark in the books, highlight important passages, and use them at any time. Please see me if this is a problem. **No electronic books will be allowed** (iPad, phone, Kindle). You **must** have a hard copy of the book.

TurnItIn.com

This year you will be expected to participate in an online discussion board. You will have assignments to complete which will involve logging in to address a discussion topic, post a comment, or write something. School computers are available for this purpose if needed; please plan your time accordingly.

Absences/Make-up Work

Good attendance is essential! You have to be in class if you expect to keep up and get something out of this course. When you are absent from class it is **your** responsibility to collect your make-up work. Please check the make-up folder for your work. The following guidelines are in accordance with Katy ISD grading policy:

- ✓ Following an absence, you have two school days per missed day of class to make up your work. If you are absent due to truancy, your maximum grade is a 70.
- ✓ If you miss a day for a field trip or extracurricular activity, your work is due when you return.
- ✓ Work that was assigned prior to an absence is due the day you return, including tests. If you know you will be absent, get your assignments ahead of time and turn them in when you return to class.
- ✓ Makeup work, including tests, may be an alternate version. If you miss a makeup exam twice, a zero will be recorded. Scheduled tests and quizzes will be made up on the day the student returns to class, unless otherwise discussed with the teacher.

Tests

Students will be given advanced notice of test dates. These dates will be posted both in the classroom and on the class website.

Dismissal

Remember that I will dismiss the class, not the bell. I will wrap up the lesson and give you time to quietly pack up your things, then I will dismiss the class. Please don’t be rude and begin packing up because you know the bell is “about to ring”.

Grading

Grade weights:

- Tests: 60%
- Quizzes: 30 %
- Daily/Homework: 10%

Keep up with your grades. Your progress reports and report cards should not be a surprise. If you have a question about your grade, I will be happy to discuss it with you before or after school. I will not take time out of class to talk about your grade.

Remember the Home Access Center (HAC). Your grades will be available for you and/or your parents to view at their leisure with a secure password. Not only does this allow your parents to keep up with your progress in class, it can be a valuable resource for you as well.

Participation is necessary. Grades are taken based upon your participation in class.

“A man who works with his hands is a laborer; a man who works with his hands and brain is a craftsman; but a man who works with his hands and his brain and his heart is an artist.”

Louis Nizer
Lawyer, Author

“A book must be an ice-axe to break the seas frozen inside our soul.”

Franz Kafka
Author

“You think your pains and your heartbreaks are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read.

It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me were the very

things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who have ever

been alive.”

James Baldwin
Novelist, Poet, Essayist

Late Work

All written assignments are due at the beginning of the class period when I collect them. Do not plan to finish/revise/print your assignment in class.

1 day late = maximum grade of 75

2 days late = maximum grade of 50

*Assignments will **NOT** be accepted after the second day.

*Homework will **NOT** be accepted for a late grade

Tutoring Days and Times

Students who need extra assistance outside of class are encouraged to come to tutoring after school or during Enrichment on Thursdays. Tutoring will be available every day after school until 3:10. Please let me know if you plan on coming to tutorials.

Note about tutoring: We highly encourage students to come to tutorials sooner rather than later. The longer they wait, the more problems tend to pile up. Waiting until the afternoon before a test can be very stressful for everyone involved.

*All other policies may be found in the student handbook.

Writing Standards

Essays assigned outside of class must be typed. There are computers available throughout the campus where the student may work before and after school. You will always have enough notice about your essay's due date to make use of the campus computers. Please use your time well and do not wait until the last minute to try to find a place to type.

Academic Dishonesty

This applies to both written work and oral presentations. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following: the willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized text, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students using fraud, duress, deception, theft, trickery, talking, signs, gestures, copying, or any other methodology.

Plagiarism:

- Submitting or presenting another person's work as your own without proper documentation, including downloaded information from the Internet and lab data.
- Using another student's material without prior approval.

Cheating:

- Giving or receiving information during a test, quiz, and/or class work assignment without teacher authorization.
- Using hand signals, gestures, and the like during tests or quizzes to obtain/give information.
- Using unauthorized materials during a test or quiz.

Plagiarism (or any other form of cheating) will result in immediate failure of that assignment and a follow-up conference with your parent(s) and assistant principal. *Please note: If you are cheating on an assignment for another class in my class, we will take both assignments and turn them in to the teacher.***

Class Website

Please use this site. It will help you out more than you think. Check for homework assignments, handouts, project/paper guidelines and due dates. We also will have helpful website links for you and extra-credit will be posted from time to time.

Turnitin.com Login Information:

Remind101:

The Year at a Glance

Following is the basic plan for the school year. Some elements may change, shift, or be eliminated, as needed, to fit the schedule. Please note that we are human, capable of mistakes and prone to flashes of inspiration (whims). This course outline is tentative and subject to change. You will be given plenty of notice if any changes should occur.

1st Six Weeks

Analysis of Summer Reading

The Story Continues: Investigating Literary Connections (Short Stories)

Intro to AP style essays – ICTW (In Class Timed Writings)

Literary Devices

Analysis of Poetry, Short Fiction, and Nonfiction

Sentence sophistication/Sentence variety/Vocabulary

2nd Six Weeks

Processing and Delivering Information: Expository Text

A Raisin in the Sun by: Lorraine Hansberry

- ISBN-10: 0679755330
- ISBN-13: 978-0679755333

AP style essays – ICTW and formal essays

Sentence sophistication/Sentence variety/Vocabulary

Analysis of Poetry, Short Fiction, and Nonfiction

AP Test Preparation

Allusions in Literature

3rd Six Weeks

Deconstructing Poetry

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

- ISBN-10: 1451673310
- ISBN-13: 978-1451673319

AP style essays – ICTW and formal essays

Analysis of Poetry, Short Fiction, and Nonfiction

Sentence sophistication/Sentence variety/Vocabulary

AP Test Preparation

4th Six Weeks

Drama Kings and Queens: *Othello* – William Shakespeare

- ISBN-10: 0743477553
- ISBN-13: 978-0743477550

AP style essays – ICTW and formal essays

Sentence sophistication/Sentence variety/ Vocabulary

Analysis of Poetry, Short Fiction, and Nonfiction

AP Test Preparation

“Books are the carriers of civilization.

Without books, history is silent,

literature dumb, science crippled,

thought and speculation at a standstill.

I think that there is nothing, not even

crime, more opposed to poetry, to

philosophy, ay, to life itself than this

incessant business.”

Henry David Thoreau
Essayist, Philosopher

“What is important is to keep

learning, to enjoy challenge, and to

tolerate ambiguity. In the end there

are no certain answers.”

Martina Horner
President, Radcliffe College

“In the case of good books, the point is

not how many of them you can get

through, but rather how many can get

through to you.”

Mortimer J. Adler
Philosopher, Educator, Author

5th Six Weeks

Navigating Media

Novel/Nonfiction Piece (to be announced several weeks in advance for purchase)

AP style essays – ICTW and formal essays

Sentence sophistication/Sentence variety/ Vocabulary

Analysis of Poetry, Short Fiction, and Nonfiction

AP Test Preparation

6th Six Weeks

Igniting the Reader Within: Literature Circles (student choice novel)

Analysis of Poetry and Short Fiction

AP Test Preparation

AP style essays – ICTW and formal essays

Analysis of Poetry, Short Fiction, and Nonfiction

Students are expected to have the current novel assigned with them in class every day. Most of the reading will be done outside of class. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed all outside work.

A Word about Content

The works of literature which appear on the Advanced Placement Readings lists are **challenging, college-level reading for mature, discerning students.** The purpose of literature is not to please, but to make the reader think. The purpose of literature is not to affirm the reader's beliefs, but, rather, to challenge them, so that they might be affirmed or rejected. Each work of art is an expression of the **human experience in all its richness—its diversity—its conflicting opinions.** A mature reader knows that light and dark, pleasure and pain, joy and sadness are inextricably intertwined as part of the human experience, each defining and making possible the alternative. The themes of these diverse works attempt to question life's important issues: **the nature of man, the purpose of life, the acquisition of knowledge and wisdom, the moral dilemma of good and evil and more.** Again, this is an introduction to a college level course in which students will be reading and writing about rich and complex issues. The intent is to neither persuade nor offend, but to teach students to objectively approach a topic thinking critically, with the power of rhetoric always in mind.

I am thrilled to be working with you this year and expect this to be a stimulating class, providing you with opportunities to share your opinions and sharpen your mind. Take full advantage of the resources at your disposal, and your sophomore year will be your most rewarding and memorable yet. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Mrs. Stuckey

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's

best friend. Inside of a dog it's too

dark to read."

Groucho Marx

Philosopher, Comedian

Mrs. Stuckey's English II Pre-AP Course Syllabus Acknowledgment
Tompkins High School 2015-2016

Please sign and have your student return by Friday, August 28, 2015.

STUDENT:

I have read and understood this English II Pre-AP syllabus.

Student Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Class period _____

PARENT:

I have read and understood what is required of my son/daughter in this class including all reading materials, grading policies, and general classroom procedures.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____

E-mail address(es) _____

Preferred Phone Number(s) _____

Any additional information that you would like to share: