

AP English Literature Course Overview - Madsen

1. Course of study

The focus of our class is threefold:

1. This is your senior English class
2. This may be your college freshman English class
3. This class will prepare you for the AP exam in the spring

The course is structured around several groups of thematically related literature. Over the course of the year we'll read and discuss a variety of works in all genres from the *Odyssey*, the earliest piece, to late 20th century writers. We'll write responses to these works, both in class and out, with the emphasis being on timed writes, using released AP questions. You will have two to three longer papers which trace an idea across several of the works we've read. We'll practice the technique of close reading as it relates to the literary terms we'll be working with all year. We'll study writing technique and analyze our papers in comparison with actual score AP responses. We'll also work on a personal essay which you may choose to use for your college admissions essay. In addition, we'll practice sections of the multiple choice test and discuss answers. By early May, you should be prepared to take the AP test. However, our classwork will continue until your last day of school since this is your senior English class.

2. Minimum requirements for passing:

Earning a minimum of 60% of total possible points

3. Grading

- A. All assignments will be given points, and a grade determined by total points.
- B. Participation in class discussions is required and your discussion grade is based on the number of times you participate. Please read the attached discussion grade policy.
- C. The final grade will be an average of all assigned work, quizzes, tests and other work.
- D. **All work** must be turned in by due date to receive credit. Late work receives no credit.
- E. All work missed because of an **excused** absence must be made up. **Work missed due to an unexcused absence receives no credit. It is your responsibility to determine what you have missed by checking my homework website (smadsenenglish.com). If you are absent for a timed write, you are responsible for making up that write within one week of your return.** If you are absent for an extended period, you will be able to download most handouts from my website calendar.
- F. Make-up work must be completed within one week or less (depending on individual assignment) of the last day missed in any consecutive period of absence. **The number of days missed = the number of days to make up work. If a project, such as an essay, was due during your absence, and the due date was common knowledge (written on the board, part of a handout, discussed in class on a day you were there), the assignment is due on your first day back in class.** All late and make-up work must be handed to me directly.
- G. **You can keep track of your grade by checking on the website. Grades are updated approximately every three weeks.**

4. Turning in work

- A. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are due at the beginning of the period. In some cases, a teacher-sanctioned extension of the due date is possible, if requested **prior to the date an assignment is due**. In extreme emergencies, extensions can be granted on or after the due date. Your assignment must be tagged with an extension slip.
- B. Late work and make-up work from excused absences must be handed to me, not handed in with another assignment or left on my desk or elsewhere in the room. At the time it is turned in, we will determine if it is late, make-up or both and you will label it as such, I will datestamp it and accept it. Late work must be turned in within a week.
- C. Under special circumstances, you may arrange with me **in advance** on a case-by-case basis to turn in an assignment in my faculty mailbox. In that situation, **a staff member must sign your paper and write the time of day and date on it before s/he puts it in my box. Work that shows up in my box with no previous discussion on your part and without being signed and dated by a staff member will be assumed to have been placed there the day I find it. Daily work which we have discussed in your presence in class may not be turned in to my box for credit afterwards.**
- D. If you are voluntarily absent from school--field trips, sports, family trip--work assigned for the period of your absence must be completed and turned in before you leave in order to receive credit for those assignments.

5. Appropriate class behavior

- A. Every student is expected to be courteous and attentive in class and to contribute to an atmosphere which makes learning possible. Every student has the right to learn; no one has the

right to disrupt that learning.

B. I expect you to be in your seats, quiet, and ready for class when the bell rings. If you are not in your seat and ready to work, you are tardy. At the end of class, you should be seated **in** your desk while you wait for the bell. Not being seated in your desk may result in disciplinary action.

D. In the case of student misbehavior, the appropriate steps will be taken in accordance with OHS discipline policy.

6. Attendance - OHS attendance policy will be followed. Poor attendance will have a definite effect on your overall grade. There is no way a student can make up the discussion/participation that he/she has missed.

7. Homework - you can count on having homework most days.

8. Classroom Management/Work Habits

A. Bring to class each day: blue/black pen, paper, any books currently being studied, your English notebook, which will contain materials handed out in class, class notes from discussions and major writing assignments in progress.

B. School books checked out to you must be covered.

C. Bathroom breaks: You are expected to plan ahead so as not to miss class. Class does go on while you are out of the room, and you not only miss what is said and done in your absence, but the rest of the class is poorer by your not being there to contribute your insights.

E. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS EXCEPT CROSSWORD PUZZLES AND MULTIPLE CHOICE PRACTICES MUST BE TYPED!!! If you are unable to type them (because you are traveling on a sports bus or are in a complete body cast) they must be written in dark blue or black ink. No exceptions. Please cut rough edges from notebook paper.**

F. This is an English class. You are expected to work on English while you are here. Having materials that distract you or others from working on English will result in a study hall referral as will off-task and/or distracting behavior.

G. Since not all situations can be addressed in one handout, I reserve the right to deal with any situation as I see fit.

H. OHS cheating policy will be strictly followed.

9. OHS Cheating Policy

For the purpose of this class, cheating will be defined as any attempt to submit someone else's work as your own or to gain for yourself, or to give to another student, an unfair advantage. Please refer to the OHS Student Handbook for a list of what is considered cheating. If you have worked with a partner, you may have discussed an idea, but I expect the words on the paper to be your own. I should not read identical wording on two or more papers. If you have any doubt as to whether you are doing something marginally ethical, you should discuss the possibility with the teacher. Otherwise, you run the risk of being accused of cheating and paying the consequences as outlined in the school policy.

Parents who wish to contact me can do so by calling the school at 596-7294 and leaving a message on my voice mail. However, I recommend if you have internet access that you contact me instead at smadsen@osd.wednet.edu. It can be very difficult for me to find a block of time when I can be alone so as to assure the privacy of you and your student. On the other hand, I frequently have a few minutes here and there while students are working when I can compose an email and dispatch it. I do check my email on a daily basis since I am on the internet anyway to update my homework web page. OHS policy for progress reports/class behavior reports is that parents need to request these through their student's counselor.

I have read this handout concerning the class procedures and behavior expectations, and I understand them.

Student's name _____(printed)

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____