

# AP English Literature & Composition

Ms. J.R. Barkin

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Office/lunch support: Check Room 2204

English Office Phone: 301-321-3436

ALL students have the opportunity to succeed in a rigorous curriculum, including the completion of a learning experience in a college-level environment.

## Course Description

This class aims to foster inquiry and help students develop strong questioning and annotating skills when reading and responding to texts. These skills are meant to help students gain an understanding of, and build their own ideas about, literary criticism. Students will leave this class with strong critical analysis and writing skills. Assignments will be modeled on the AP Exam which includes prose passage, poetry and open literature essays as well as selected response items.

We will be engaged in thematically connected literature groupings throughout the year. The texts may include:

- o *Exit West*
- o *The Road*
- o *Brave New World*
- o *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- o *Hamlet*
- o *Pride & Prejudice*
- o *Jane Eyre*
- o *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- o *Song of Solomon*
- o *Purple Hibiscus*
- o *In the Time of the Butterflies*
- o *The Farming of Bones*
- o *The Kite Runner*

We will be researching common literary allusions; crafting creative presentations on a variety of texts; exploring all forms of poetry; writing college essays; completing a literary research essay in addition to our work in improving reading and writing skills.

## Grading

We will be using a weighted categories system in the class: Summative—40%; Formative—50%; Homework—10%. Q4 will a culminating project worth 10%.

- No assignment in a single category can exceed 25% of a student's overall grade
- Re-assessments are only allowed on assignments as specified by the teacher
- Essays will be assessed using the AP rubric. Scores will be converted to points
- Timed essays will be worth 50 points
- Essays written outside of class will be worth 100 points
- Multiple guess assessments will be worth 15-25 points and will be graded on a modified curve
- Other assignments will be worth between 10-50 points depending on the nature of the assignment
- Deadline is defined as "end of unit" unless otherwise specified (check your assignment sheets)!

## Deadlines

- **PLEASE** communicate with me as soon as you know you need assistance. I will generally be available during lunch and before school by appointment. I will (almost always) respond the same day to any email received before 9 p.m.
- Due dates and deadlines for all assignments will be the same for all homework and formative assignments.
- If the due date and deadline differ from the assignment, the due date will be the end of the unit. There is a 10% grade reduction for assignments not submitted on the due date.
- You will be submitting many assignment electronically; I do check the time codes.
- Assignments submitted past the deadline may be submitted for feedback only

## Tardiness & Absences

Please be on time to class. If you are late, please apologize and enter the room non-disruptively. Please make sure to bring a pass when you arrive late. I will not mark you "Unexcused" without one. Remember, UTs add up to absences -- make sure to get a pass! If tardiness or absences become a pattern, I will contact home and request a parent meeting. Remember, this is a **COLLEGE LEVEL** course and therefore moves at a fast pace. Keeping up with your work is essential, and you **MUST** be here to do so.

**No matter what type of absence, you are REQUIRED to make up any work you missed, which includes obtaining all notes from the missed class and getting missed homework/formative/summative assignments. There is NO absence type that EXCUSES your RESPONSIBILITY to complete work.** You need to speak with me if you miss class to get information on what you missed. If there is an assignment on Classroom, I expect that you have at least looked and seen it exists before we meet.

Students with five unlawful absences in a class will automatically be notified to submit an appeal of the recording of their absences if they or their parents/guardians believe any absence was recorded incorrectly, or develop an attendance intervention plan with their school counselors/administrators.

For missed materials, you can go to the absent folder on the counter near your class crate.

- If you are absent on the day an assignment is due and it is **excused**:
  - Your assignment is due the day you return to school.
  - If you are absent on the date of a timed writing and you are excused, **you must see me immediately upon your return to school to schedule a make-up date.** That make-up date will likely be within three days of your return to school.
- If you are absent on the day an assignment is due and it is **unexcused**, you may submit the assignment for feedback

## MLA Format

All typed assignments should be in MLA format:

- Margins—1" on all sides
- Font—Times New Roman
- Size—12 point
- Line spacing—Double-spaced (unless otherwise noted); eliminate extra space between paragraphs

Any assignment that is not typed will be written in **blue or black ink**.

## Lending Library

In our classroom, we will have a small lending library. Should you want to read any of the books, you are welcome to them. It is **REQUIRED** that you come and check the book out with me before taking it out of the classroom. This small, quiet space is also available for you to do work during lunch, etc.

## Plagiarism

If you use words or ideas that are not common knowledge or are not original ideas of your own, then you must show where your information came from, which is called citation, or citing your research. Use MLA citation to avoid any problems with Plagiarism. *If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a ZERO on that assignment, a phone call will be made to your parents, and a meeting may be held with Administration.*

## Required Materials

You need to bring the following with you **every day**:

- Pens/pencils/highlighters
- Lined looseleaf paper (in a binder or a notebook)
- The text(s) that we are currently reading
- Your assignment(s), printed out/completed and ready to turn in
- Your enthusiasm and willingness to learn

## The Writing Center

If you could benefit from additional feedback on ANY writing assignment for ANY school work (or college and scholarship essays,) the Writing Center and the English Composition Assistants are here to help. Open daily at lunch and after school (until 3:30) most days. Room 2134.