

**Mr. Schmidt**  
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**12<sup>th</sup> Grade AP English Literature**  
**Rm. #113**  
**Remind Code: text @9bk2kh to 81010**  
**Thomas Downey High School**  
**2019-2020 Course Outline**

**AP ENGLISH LITERATURE COURSE DESCRIPTION**

AP English Literature is a highly intensive course designed to mature students' analytical and writing skills. The course's primary objective is to prepare students for the rigors and expectations of college English. Its second is to equip students with the skills necessary to take and pass the English Literature AP test. To that end, this course will examine poetry, drama, and literature from Classical Greece to modern works.

**TEXTS**

This year, we will be reading from among the following texts:

**DRAMA**

*Antigone* by Sophocles

*Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles

*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

*Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw

*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

**WORKS IN VERSE**

*Beowulf*

*The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (selections)

**NOVELS**

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

*A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris

*A Room with a View* by E.M. Forster

*Grendel* by John Gardner

*A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway

*In Our Time* by Ernest Hemingway (collection of short stories)

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey

*All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

**POETRY**

Poetry will cover literary periods ranging from the Renaissance to modern day. Additional assorted short stories, articles, and literary criticism

## NOTES ON READING

This is a college-level course. If you don't enjoy reading and writing, then you should re-think taking this course. You will be required to read most nights. **Online summaries are no substitutes, as they will deter you from thinking critically.** This is an interactive environment, so your enthusiastic involvement is an integral part of the class and our learning. Be prepared to read, write, talk and learn in an intensive but supportive environment. Also, the literature we will study and discuss will sometimes focus on mature themes. They will not be our sole emphasis, but be prepared to study novels and plays that sometimes deal with language and situations that require a mature attitude and perspective.

## RULES FOR BEHAVIOR

My class rules are: be **respectful**, be **prepared**, and be **professional**. I will hold myself as well as you to these rules. If you are having issues with another student or in other aspects of your life that make it difficult to follow these rules, **talk to me. Let me know.** I will help you deal with these issues in a positive way and get you the help you need.

### Be respectful:

In this class, I will respect your opinions. In return, you will show respect to your fellow classmates and to me. This involves **listening attentively** and **being respectful** when disagreeing. Bullying or mockery of other students in any form will not be tolerated. Our words and actions have consequences—to ourselves and to others.

### Be prepared:

You are responsible for coming prepared to class each and every day. This means that you will bring: your (charged) laptop, pencils, blue or black pens, binder paper, a spiral notebook, a three-ring binder, Post-Its, and the required book(s) for the day. If you need supplies, talk to me—I keep extras. You will also follow our classroom **procedures** as discussed later in this outline.

### Be professional:

Phones should be out of sight, put on silent, and remain in your pockets, backpacks, or purses *unless* I say that it is okay to use them for an assignment. MP3 players and earphones should be out of sight *unless* I say it is okay to listen to them.

**Tardiness is unprofessional and disrespectful to your instructor.** (SEE: "CITIZENSHIP" section below)

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the copying of someone else's work, whether a published author or a classmate, with the intent to deceive the readers into thinking they are reading original work; plagiarism is "to take and use the ideas or writings of another" without proper attribution and documentation. At this point in your academic career, you should know that plagiarism is unprofessional and unacceptable. Universities will not stand for it, and neither will I. Students caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating will receive a "0" on the assignment in question, a "U" in citizenship for the **semester**, and **no** letters of recommendation of any sort from me (I will also contact universities/ scholarship committees to **rescind** any previous letters already sent and explain the nature of your academic dishonesty). I may also remove you from the course, since plagiarism would indicate that you cannot handle the expectations of AP English Literature. Remember: *I know the websites that you know.* Don't risk it.

## DISCIPLINE

Disobeying the classroom rules as outlined above may result in being kept after class or during lunch for a discussion of how to correct issues in your academic behavior. Serious violations will result in in-school suspensions and Saturday school referrals.

## PROCEDURES

When you enter class, find your seat and check the front board. The first activity of the day will be listed under “**DO NOW**,” which you should have already begun when the bell rings. You should be in your seat when the bell rings and ready to work.

I give out hall passes at my discretion. That means that I will allow a bathroom pass **if** it does not interrupt the class or your learning. Otherwise, just take care of business before or after class.

Finally—I dismiss you, not the bell.

## ASSIGNMENTS

In the upper left-hand corner of each assignment you turn in, write your name, period, and the day's date. Typed assignments (essays, projects, etc.) should be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-pt font with 1-inch margins and follow the *Modesto City Schools Writing and Literacy Handbook* guidelines. Purdue's Online Writing Lab is a fantastic resource as well (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>).

Your assignments will include: in-class participation, group work, journal assignments, homework, reading assignments, projects, essays, quizzes, exams, and mandatory AP exam study sessions in the spring. Exams may contain multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. **NOTE: It is your responsibility to e-mail or share with me via Google Docs assignments that are due on days that you are absent by the start of that day's class.**

## LATE POLICY & MAKE-UP WORK

In the real world of college and careers, there will be tough consequences for not completing jobs or tasks on time. The same is true for this class. Late work, therefore, will **not** be accepted (**SEE: “ASSIGNMENTS”** section above). I will always give you a reasonable amount of time to complete your assignments. It is your job to manage your time effectively. I will only make exceptions for serious, unexpected circumstances, and only then on a case-by-case basis.

If you are absent, check the daily folders at the back of the room for the assignments you missed and information on due dates. You have two days to make up your work for every day you missed as per district policy.

## GRADING POLICY

I will use two types of grading systems: credit or no credit assignments and A-F grades using the +/— system:

<b>A</b> 93 – 100%	<b>A-</b> 90-92%	<b>B+</b> 87-89%	<b>B</b> 83-86%	<b>B-</b> 80-82%
<b>C+</b> 77-79%	<b>C</b> 73-76%	<b>C-</b> 70-72%	<b>D+</b> 67-69%	<b>D</b> 63-66%
<b>D-</b> 60-62%	<b>F</b> 0-59%			

Extra credit will be offered occasionally, so there will be no rounding up of grades at the end of each quarter. I would not want to spoil you, after all.

### **ATTENDANCE AND CITIZENSHIP**

**Three** or more unexcused absences in a quarter will result in an unsatisfactory citizen mark; **five** or more unexcused tardies in a quarter will result in an unsatisfactory citizenship mark. To receive an “Outstanding” citizenship mark, students must actively participate in class and offer valuable input.

### **THE AP ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM**

You are expected to take the May AP exam. If you do, you will be excused from the spring semester final exam. If you do not take it, you will take a previous year’s 3-hour AP exam, to be counted in your final semester grade.

### **FINAL ADVICE/ CONTACT ME**

Senior year is the culmination of your high school academic career. You will have many demands on your time. Prioritize. Enjoy this final year at TDHS, but not at the expense of your studies. The best way to get in touch with me is to e-mail me at: [schmidt.p@monet.k12.ca.us](mailto:schmidt.p@monet.k12.ca.us). We will also use the Remind app. I am available to meet with students during lunch and after school. Making appointments to see me is advisable, but feel free to drop by anytime for college talk, career talk, class talk, personal issues, or whatever else you need.

## AP ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

All works are available to be checked out from the library before summer. **All summer assignments are due on the first day of class.** Late work is not accepted. Also, see the "PLAGIARISM" entry above.

### Part One: Read Three Works

1. *Things Fall Apart*
2. *A Farewell to Arms*
3. *Pygmalion*

Tests on these three works may be administered during the first week of school in the fall.

### Part Two: Write an Essay

Respond to the topic below in a 3-4 page essay (**note:** 3 full pages is the minimum, not 2.1 pages, not 2.5 pages, not 2.75 pages, etc.). Your essay should be typed with 12-pt Times New Roman font, 2.0 spacing, and one-inch margins. Your essay should have a focused thesis and include topic sentences that are focused and support your overall thesis. A minimum of two relevant, properly integrated quotations is required. Please use MLA and parenthetical documentation. **Your essay is due on day one of class.** Do *not* procrastinate on this; your essay should be of high quality, as it will be my first introduction to your skills as a writer.

#### PROMPT:

Pick two characters from two of the three works and analyze how the values and/ or morals of their respective societies shape and influence the behavior of the two characters. Address how this reflects the overall meaning of the two works (re: topics and themes). Your writing must be concrete and specific and include a thesis that forces you to argue and support your original claims with integrated quotations and insightful commentary. Remember: a thesis *does not merely restate the prompt*, but offers an original, arguable claim.

### Part Three: Write Two Outlines

Write four-page outlines for both *Things Fall Apart* and *A Farewell to Arms*. The two outlines must be detailed, specific, concrete, and typed in alphanumeric (I, II, III, A, B, C, 1, 2, 3, a, b, c) format. **Your outlines are due on day one of class.**

## TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO MR. SCHMIDT

Keep the course outline as a reference. Bring this page back to Mr. Schmidt no later than **August 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**. It is to be signed by you and your guardian(s). Please re-read the course outline carefully and ask for clarification if needed. **This counts as a homework assignment.**

### Student:

I have read and understand the rules and expectations of Mr. Schmidt's classroom. I agree to follow these rules.

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Guardian:

I, the legal guardian, have read and understand the rules and expectations of Mr. Schmidt's classroom. I agree that I will support these rules and support the teacher in their enforcement.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_