

COURSE: ENGLISH 12 / BRITISH LITERATURE

SCHOOL: Capital Christian High School

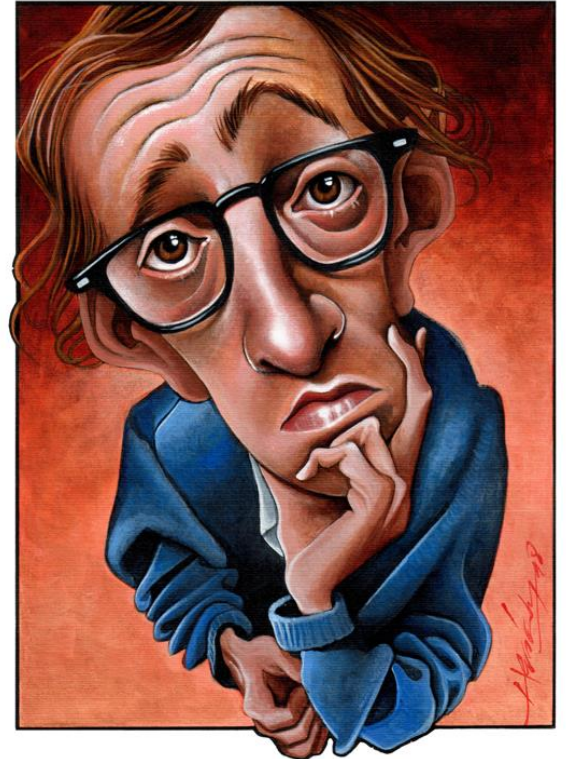
SCHOOL YEAR: 2014-2015

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Scott Foran

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WEBSITE: www.ccsengl.weebly.com

“Just don’t take any class
where you have to read *Beowulf*.”
—Woody Allen



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This one-year course is a survey of important British authors and literary trends from *Beowulf* to the present. In addition to reading the texts, we will critically analyze them for literary devices and explore the biographical and historical contexts that led to their creation. We will begin with the Medieval Era, reading *Beowulf*, selections from Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. We will then move to the Renaissance with a selection from Spenser’s *Faerie Queene* and Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*. During the second semester, we will tackle the Enlightenment by reading works by Donne, Milton, Swift, and Pope, then shift our attention to the Romantic poets and a reading of Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. We will close the school year with the Victorians and the twentieth century, focusing on texts by Tennyson, Yeats, Conrad, and Joyce. Our final reading project will be George Orwell’s *1984*.

Students will practice the types of writing, both informal and formal, that will be expected of them at the college level. As a part of this writing focus, students will review the basics of grammar, punctuation, and sentence mechanics, and they will reinforce their knowledge and use of MLA format with formal writing assignments.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *The British Tradition: Common Core Edition* (Prentice Hall)
- *The Little Seagull Handbook* by Richard Bullock (ISBN: 978-0393911510)
- *Grammar Exercise Workbook: Grade 12* (ISBN: 978-0133616965)
- *Beowulf*, Trans. Seamus Heaney, Bilingual Edition (ISBN: 978-0393320978)
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, Norton Critical Edition (ISBN: 978-0393964585)
- *1984* by George Orwell (ISBN: 978-0452284234)

Note: Purchase of these texts is the responsibility of parents and students. Please plan on having these books in hand by Friday, August 22, 2014.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. *Attendance.* It is expected that you attend each class period. If you are absent, however, it is **your** responsibility to get notes from another student—the instructor will not provide you with notes.
2. *Assigned Readings.* It will be critical to the running of this course that you come to class having already read the text assignment(s) for that day; these will be listed on the course calendar. Class discussions will be conducted under the assumption that you are current in your reading.
3. *Participation in Class Discussions.* It will be important for you to participate in class discussions. The learning process is greatly enhanced when each member of a class actively engages in asking questions and in offering personal insights.
4. *Personal Supplemental Reading.* In addition to the assigned reading, you will need to read one supplemental book each quarter. You may choose which book you would like to read, but it must be approved by the instructor (for length, appropriateness, etc.). There will be an assignment associated with the reading, and the instructor will provide you with a detailed handout explaining this.
5. *Classwork.* Classwork will be assigned to help you better understand the texts you will be reading or the academic writing process. These assignments will mostly be completed during class, but may need to be finished as homework from time to time. Classwork is not listed on the course calendar; instead, your instructor will inform you of due dates.
6. *Notebook.* It is expected that you take notes during this course. Plan on using them to study for exams.
7. *Reading Quizzes.* As a means of motivation, and to help prepare you for the course exams, you will be given a reading quiz on the first class day of each week. These quizzes will cover the required readings, and you can refer to the course calendar for specific pages.
8. *Exams.* There will be two formal exams given during each semester, a mid-term and a final. These exams will be based on assigned readings, handouts, lectures, and class discussions and may include both standardized forms of questions as well as essay questions.
9. *Grammar Worksheets.* You will be introduced to the basic elements of English grammar and will practice using these elements in the *Grammar Exercise Workbook*. Please refer to the course calendar for specific dates.
10. *In-Class Reading.* Part of each Friday's class will be dedicated to silent reading. What you read will be up to you (texts required for this class, books you've selected for your personal supplemental reading, texts required for other classes, etc.); however, this does not include on-line materials, text messages, tweets, etc. You will not be allowed to complete written work during this time.
11. *Informal Essays.* You will be asked to write a wide variety of informal essays that focus on critical analysis and interpretation of select literary texts. On Tuesday of each week, the instructor will provide you with a question, and you will be expected to create a written in-class response that is at least 250 words in length. These essays are to be collected in a journal format (you will need to purchase a notebook or journal for this assignment) and turned in to the instructor by the end of class each Tuesday.
12. *Formal Essays.* You will be asked to write two critical essays during the first semester and one during the second semester. The instructor will provide you with a detailed

handout explaining this assignment, and you can refer to the course calendar for due dates.

13. *Research Paper*. You will be required to write one research paper during the second semester. You will be asked to turn in a proposal, a rough draft, and a final draft. The instructor will provide you with a detailed handout explaining this assignment, and you can refer to the course calendar for the due dates.

WRITING BASICS:

1. All papers must be typed and stapled.
2. Times New Roman (12 point) is the **mandatory** font.
3. All margins should be one inch.
4. Each paper must be turned in as a hard copy at the beginning of class on the day it is due.
5. Each draft must also be electronically submitted to *Turnitin*. The instructor will provide you with a detailed handout concerning this.
6. Minimum length requirements are as follows:
 - Essays: two full pages (excluding works cited page)
 - Research Paper: five full pages (excluding works cited page)
7. Modern Language Association (MLA) format is required.
8. Each paper should be original work. *Plagiarism* is defined as any of the following:
 - Not properly documenting your source(s)
 - Not using quotation marks to indicate material that has been copied word-for-word
 - “Copying and pasting” information into a document to use as your own work
 - Blatantly using another’s work as your own (i.e. borrowed or purchased papers)Plagiarism will result in a “0” for the assignment and a referral to the Dean of Students.
9. Each paper should be generated specifically for this course. *Recycling* is when you turn in a paper that you originally wrote for a different class or semester. A recycled paper will result in a “0” for the assignment, with the opportunity for one credited rewrite.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

1. You are expected to complete all assignments.
2. **Late Policy:** Homework is considered late if it is not turned in at the beginning of the class period on the day it is due (except informal essays which will be due at the end of the period). Email submissions will not be accepted. For each calendar day an assignment is late, 10% of the total possible points will be subtracted (this includes weekends). This late policy applies for **all** possible contingencies (with the exception of approved absences), including unexcused absence, computer/printer difficulties, etc. If you know you are going to be absent, it is better to turn in work early.
3. First Semester:

Grammar Worksheets	(5%)
Reading Quizzes	(10%)
Supplemental Reading	(10%)
Mid-Term Exam	(15%)
Final Exam	(20%)
Informal Essays	(10%)
Formal Essays	(30%)

4. Second Semester:

Grammar Worksheets	(5%)
Reading Quizzes	(10%)
Supplemental Reading	(10%)
Mid-Term Exam	(15%)
Final Exam	(20%)
Informal Essays	(10%)
Formal Essay	(10%)
Research Paper	(20%)

5. Semester Totals

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 0-59%

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

The English department website is an important resource for you to use during the school year. It has information about the department, our English program, and this course. It also makes available resource pages on MLA format, grammar, and literature.



www.ccsengl.weebly.com

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

You should not be using any electronic device during class (e.g. phone, tablet, e-reader, laptop, etc.) unless you have explicit instructor approval. Failure to abide by this policy may result in the instructor holding onto the device for the remainder of class, an email being sent to parents/guardians, or a referral being sent to the Dean of Students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

The syllabus functions as a sort of contract between the instructor and the student and is, therefore, an important document. Please read the entire syllabus and sign below, indicating that you have done so. Return the acknowledgement form to the instructor by Friday, August 22, 2014, and keep the syllabus so you can refer to it as needed throughout the year.

I have read the course syllabus for English 12.

Parent/Guardian:

_____ (print name) _____ (signature)

Date: ____/____/____

Student:

_____ (print name) _____ (signature)

Date: ____/____/____