AP English Literature and Composition A/B Syllabus

Teacher: Philip T. Grabowskii

Email: graboph@richmond.k12.ga.us

**Course Description:** AP English Literature and Composition is a year-long college-level course designed to engage students in close reading and critical analysis of rich literary texts as outlined by the AP English Literature Course Description. The course is reading and writing intensive. Throughout the year, students will develop skills in various forms of written expression and will prepare extensively for the AP exam in May. Participation in class discussion and learning activities is vital for learning, and each student is expected to come to class each day prepared to contribute. In their interaction with literary texts and during instruction, students will learn literary terminology and wide-ranging vocabulary (including but not limited to words from literary texts and AP-exam questions) as well as acquire the necessary critical reading and writing (style and conventions) skills to interpret complex works, to write insightful compositions, to develop their own writing style, and to gain proficiency in AP test-taking skills.

Reading List (Subject to Change)

* *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
* *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
* *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* by Tom Stoppard
* Short stories and poems
* Novels chosen through book clubs

Materials

* Three-Ring Binder
* College Rule Paper
* Pens (Blue-Black Ink)
* Highlighters (Variety Pack)—Optional

Grading Policy

* This a semester-long course.
* Assignments will be counted from now until the end of the semester. There will be progress reports sent out, but the final grade will not be calculated until the end.
* At the end of that time, all grades will be calculated, and the resulting average will count as 90% of the final grade.
* The grades will be calculated as follows:
* 60% MINOR (formative) assessments (daily grades, quizzes, in-class writing/rough drafts)
* 40% MAJOR (summative) assessments (tests, projects, out-of-class writing/final drafts).

Final Exam

* On the last week of the semester, students will complete a comprehensive exam that is worth 10% of the final grade.
* Students who hope to exempt their final exam may only do so if they have a 90 average prior to the end of the semester AND no unexcused absences.

Relearn and Reassess

It is the policy of the Richmond County Board of Education that students should have the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of standards. To that end, a student who fails a major grade assessment will have the opportunity to reassess. The following guidelines govern those reassessments.

* Students may only reassess on major assignments, not minor ones.
* Students may reassess twice on each major assignment. After that, the highest score will be recorded.
* If a student fails a major assignment, they must complete a reassessment agreement (with a parent signature). No reassessment will be accepted without this agreement.
* If a student passes a major assignment, but still wants to reassess for a higher grade, then they must also complete the reassessment agreement (with a parent signature). No reassessment will be accepted without this agreement.
* As part of the relearning process, the student must list all their minor assessments that contributed to that standard being assessed. If they did not complete all these minor assessments, then they must do so, or the new major assessment will not be accepted.
* The reassessment (with all components) must be completed within seven school days of the original grade being posted to Infinite Campus. After that, no assignments will be accepted.

Missing Work

If a student is absent, any missed work goes into the gradebook as a zero until it is made up. The assignment will also be marked in Infinite Campus with a reminder to make the work up by a set due date. Students must complete this make-up work within five school days. Please turn in the absence excuse to the school’s data clerk across from the main office on the day you return to school. (Students who are absent for an extended period, i.e., one week or longer, will be given additional time.)

Late Work

All assignments will have a specific due date. If the student does not complete the assignment on time, then he may submit it late with a five-point penalty (per day). After five days, the assignment will NOT be accepted.

Homework

It is the policy of the Richmond County Board of Education that high school students should have approximately one hour of homework total from Monday through Friday. Obviously, this expectation is greater at A.R. Johnson because it is a magnet school. Additionally, the expectation is even greater for an Advanced Placement class. For this class, most homework will fall into three categories: reading, vocabulary, and studying.

**Mr. Grabowskii’s Commandments**

1. Thou shalt adhere to the A. R. Johnson Student Handbook and the Richmond County Uniform Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.
2. Thou shalt be in your desk when the bell rings and remain seated unless permitted otherwise. If you are late for my class because of another teacher, you are still late. I do not keep students after the bell and no other teacher should make you late for my class. (This includes cleaning up after labs or finishing up a test.) Yes, I do count tardies!
3. Thou shalt come to class prepared. This means bringing pen or pencil, paper, notebook and your BOOK every day. This means YOU!
4. Thou shalt be actively involved in your own education. This means taking notes, paying attention in class, ASKING QUESTIONS, and discussing the ideas being discussed. Passivity will usually lead to a lower grade.
5. Thou shalt keep all electronic devices quiet and out-of-sight unless they are specifically needed for my class. Headphones/mp3 players should not be visible unless it is an assessment day and you are finished with your test. You may NOT plug your electronic devices into the room’s outlets to charge without first asking permission. Any electronic device used while you are taking a test or quiz will automatically result in a zero for the assignment and a referral for academic dishonesty. There will be no exceptions to this.
6. Thou shalt not put your head down on your desk. If you do so, I will assume you are sleeping and write you up. This includes after tests. Bring something constructive to do!
7. Thou shalt have no other teachers before me. Do NOT work on other teacher’s assignments while you are supposed to be paying attention in here. If you do so, the work will be collected and not returned until the end of the following school day. If you finish your work for this class early, you should find something constructive to work on, which may then and only then include work for another teacher.
8. Thou shalt take care of make-up work within five days of returning to school. If, after five days, you have not made up the assignment, you will receive a zero.
9. Thou shalt eat, drink, and be merry—outside of my classroom! Don’t bring your cups, soda bottles, candy bars, and other food items into my room. (Water bottles are the only permissible alternative.)
10. Thou shalt not use my classroom as your personal locker or trashcan. If you leave your things (including notebooks and textbooks) in my room, I will send them down to lost and found where they will remain lost and most certainly never found.
11. And the most important of them all—THOU SHALT DO THY HOMEWORK!

**CLASS** **CONSEQUENCES (Level 1 offense)**

1st offense – redirection and verbal warning

2nd offense – documented, redirection, parent contacted

3rd offense – documented, detention, parent contacted

4th offense – documented, detention, parent conference

5th offense – referral to the administration

\*NOTE – Extreme misconduct may result in an automatic referral to the administration. \*

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**

Plagiarism is copying or imitating the language, ideas and/or thoughts of another writer and passing them off as one's own original work. In my job as a professional writer, if I plagiarize, it is considered intellectual theft. I can be taken to court and ordered to pay restitution. In the academic world, plagiarism is considered cheating. If you do it, there is a price to pay.

* **Copying or Borrowing Assignments**: One of the biggest issues that I have found over the years is the number of students who turn in identical work and then try to use the excuse that, “I just let my friend look at it. I didn’t know he was going to copy it.” If your friend asks to look at or “borrow” your assignment, assume that he is going to copy it. Because if he does, you both will suffer the penalty. Allowing someone else to see or use your work is called “collusion.” This is just as serious as outright plagiarism. It will result in the same penalty.
* **Copying Other Sources:** All essays will be submitted through Canvas and then checked for plagiarism with Turnitin.com. This web service will determine if any of the material in your assignment has been copied from online. It will also determine if you have simply changed a word “here or there” and tried to pass it off as your own work. Whether it is 100% copied or just a majority has been copied, it is still plagiarism and will be handled as such. Some assignments will allow the use of outside sources. If (and only if) this is the case, then you must cite where you got the information using proper MLA citations. This means placing the words in quotation marks and placing the author’s last name and the page number in parentheses. Such a citation would look like this: In Sonnet 130, the narrator describes his girlfriend in unflattering terms by stating “My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun” (Shakespeare 252).
* **Use of AI:** A new addition to academic dishonesty is the use of AI “chatbots” to create your essay for you. While this may seem like an “easy option,” it is also easily detectable. An assignment is made with the expectation that you will complete it—not someone else. That includes an AI system.
* **Penalty:** The penalty for academic dishonesty is the same for all the above offenses (regardless of whether you knowingly plagiarized or unknowingly colluded with another student.) The penalty will be as follows:
* A mark of zero for the assignment as well as a designation in Infinite Campus that the student cheated. (Students who are caught cheating on a major grade will be required to complete an alternative assignment.)
* A referral to the administration for disciplinary action.

August 6, 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the beginning of another exciting year at A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School. I hope that you and your child are looking forward to this year as much as I am.

I cannot stress enough how important grades are for this class. I routinely update the school’s computer software, Infinite Campus, with your child’s grades. Get in the habit of checking these grades at least weekly. It is my responsibility to update these grades, but it is also your responsibility to help monitor your child’s progress. It is also possible for you to have an observer access to Canvas. This is imperative so that you can see exactly what assignments your child has as well as to have access to announcements. (I use the announcements and email function of Canvas instead of Remind so that you don’t have to sign up for multiple platforms.)

To ensure that the year goes smoothly, I have reviewed a list of policies and procedures concerning classroom behavior and expectations along with this year’s reading list. I ask that you read over these statements with your child to ensure that they understand and agree to abide by the rules that will govern this class. Compliance with these rules and procedures are important to ensure that this year will be free of problems so that learning time can be maximized. Please complete the attached form with information regarding your child including contact info. Also, you and your child should both sign the form stating that you have read the policies that have been sent home, including the academic dishonesty policy. Return this form to me no later than Friday, August 9, 2024.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at graboph@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us. I will get back with you as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Philip T. Grabowskii

English Department Chair

Student Information Sheet

Student’s Last Name

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Student’s First Name

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Student’s Preferred Name (If different from first name)

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Parent /Guardian’s Name (#1)

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Parent/Guardian’s E-Mail (#1)

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Parent /Guardian’s Name (#2)

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Parent/Guardian’s E-Mail (#2)

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*I have read the attached materials concerning course requirements, classroom expectations, and grading systems. My signature indicates both understanding and a willingness to comply with the guidelines set forth in this material. I am also acknowledging that I have read the information on academic dishonesty and the punishment for this offense.*

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Student’s Signature

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Parent’s Signature