

KAP English- Danville High School
Fall 2012 Semester

Instructor Beth Durbin
Email beth_durbin@knoxnet.k12.oh.us
Phone 398-6272
Office Hours by appointment

Required Texts *Love Medicine* by Louise Aldrich
Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
“*The Tempest*” by William Shakespeare
“*A Doll’s House*” by Henrik Ibsen
“*The Yellow Wallpaper*” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
History of Love by Nicole Krauss
Poetry & Short Stories by various authors

Reading and Participation This course relies heavily on class discussions. It is imperative that you come to class having read and thought about the readings.

Written Assignments You will write four 3-5 page papers during the course. Each will be graded on the quality of their insights into their subject and how well you communicate those insights. In addition, frequent 250- to 750-word extended answer questions will be assigned to confirm comprehension of material discussed in class and to improve your writing skills. Assignments should be in MLA style.

Deadlines/Attendance Assignments must be handed in on the day they are due. If you are going to be late with an assignment, talk to me *before* it is due, keeping in mind that there will be points off for late assignments. Absences (excused and unexcused) will be limited to five (5) since this is a college course and valuable information is covered each day.

Conferences While these are not required, I encourage you meet with me to discuss drafts of papers.

Plagiarism Anyone found plagiarizing will receive a 0 for that assignment and will be turned over to the Kenyon Board of Ethics.

Portfolio Keep a copy of everything you write in this class as well as discussion notes and handouts until your final grade is received for this course.

KAP English- Danville High School
Fall 2013 Semester

Syllabus

Please note that the timeline and assignments below are estimated and may vary based on real life. More or less reading and assignments may be given. Due dates and additional details will be provided for all assignments in a timely manner.

August, Weeks 1 – 2

Reading: *Love Medicine* introduction and discussion of pp 1-162, due 8/31

Essay #1 Topic: College Entrance/Scholarship Essay, due 8/29

Project MLA presentation, due 9/6

September Weeks 3-6

Reading: *Love Medicine* discussion, pp 162-333

- Writing Assignments
- Write about a story from childhood. (350 - 500 words)
 - Identify a pair of characters. Write about their similarities and differences and where your sympathies lie. (500-750 words)
 - Write about an important symbol used in the novel.(250-500 words)
 - Write about a character you find most or least sympathetic and how that character has changed over the course of the novel (250-500 words)

Essay #2 Explore one of the major themes in the novel, providing specific textual references from the novel. (3-5 pages)

October, Weeks 7-10

Readings: *Grapes of Wrath*

Readings "Eveline" "How to Date a Brown Girl, White Girl or Halfie" "Girl" "Goodbye, Africa"

Assignments Pre-read and be prepared to discuss in class.

Essay #3 Literary techniques used by authors to bring stories to life. Choose 2-3 short stories and describe literary techniques used by the authors that were particularly effective. Be sure to cite examples from the text.

November, Weeks 11-13

Readings: The Tempest

Review poems related to "The Tempest" if time allows.

- Assignment:
- Following a discussion on *racialism*, share ways that Danville might be racialized and what issues this brings up. (approx. 500 words)
 - What is the value placed on human life and love in this play?(500-750 words)

December, Weeks 14-17

Readings: A Doll's House

The Yellow Wallpaper

Essay #4 Compare and contrast the play and short story. You may explore themes, symbolism, mood, tone, historical significance or other topic of choice. Rely heavily on textual references from the readings to support your paper. (3-5 pages)

- Assignments
- You must put Nora on trial for one of the crimes she committed. In pairs you will present your case in a mock trial against another pair of students who will defend her.
 - What is the social significance of these readings during time period in which they were written and even today? (500-750 words)

January, Weeks 18-20

Reading: *History of Love* Read novel as a group

Essay #5 Write a narrative paper about the first time you fell in love with a human, object or concept. How did you know? What did it feel like and how did it change the way you viewed life?

The struggle to exist and to deal with loss are evident of many characters in this novel. Choose two characters and define their losses, how they cope and their struggles to exist. Be sure to use specific examples from the text.

Final exam Submit a previous essay of choice extended to a 5-7 page paper, edited, revised and proofed.

Tips for succeeding in KAP English

Stay with It.

Realize that this is a wonderful opportunity to gain insight into what a college course will be like next year. You will be challenged and at times overwhelmed. Hang in there and keep moving forward with the course. You will finish better prepared for college.

Read. Read. Read.

Stay up with the reading. Spend any spare time you have reading future assignments. It will make the writing assignments much easier and allow you to enjoy class discussions ... and believe it or not make the class period go by faster.

Take Initiative.

You are not expected to know every new word in the readings, or concept discussed in class, but you are expected to seek out more information and look up definitions as necessary to master the material.

Ask.

If you need help, ask for it. I am available to you whenever I'm not teaching another class ... and that goes for evenings, too.