

Edison High School
KAP Language Arts
Instructor: Christopher Ceccoli
Course Overview
2015 - 2016

Course Description

This course is a collaborative effort involving faculty from the English Departments at Kenyon College and Edison High School. By tracing English literary history from the Anglo-Saxon period to the modern era, this course will cover a variety of genres, including: short story, poetry, drama, novel, and nonfiction. In addition to these genres, the class will focus on various authors who contribute to the culturally rich tradition found in English literature. Some of these authors include: Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Dickens, Joyce, and Woolf. By reading and responding through writing, students will develop a better understanding of various literary techniques and forms of effective communication. The goal of this class is to empower the students to become better readers, writers, and speakers.

Prerequisites:

- Recommendation from junior English teacher
- 3.5 (or higher) GPA
- A's or B's in every previous semester of high school English classes
- Approved writing sample completed during an in-school writing session

Instructor

Mr. Ceccoli – Room 201

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Daily Requirements

1. **Respect.** For this class to be a successful and rewarding experience for everyone, we need to be respectful of the opinions of others.
2. **Preparation/Participation.** Review class notes, do assigned readings, and any written work so that you are prepared when each class begins. Come to class with an open mind and a willingness to learn and participate in class discussions and activities. You must have an opinion and be prepared to defend it. You have to care – non-negotiable!
3. **A three-ring binder full of loose-leaf paper.** People learn through their writing. Therefore, the students will be responsible for keeping their writing in a binder that will include the following sections:
 - A. **Class Notes:** a place to record any notes taken during class discussion or lecture
 - B. **Writing Journal:** a place to generate ideas for writing and to discover attitudes toward a given topic
 - C. **Rough Drafts:** a place to keep pieces of writing that need further development, revision, editing, etc.
 - D. **Mechanics:** a place to record any information regarding the rules of grammar and punctuation, along with rubrics, guidelines for writing submissions, etc.
 - E. **Vocabulary:** a place to list unfamiliar words and their definitions, to develop and determine analogies, and to note pronunciation of words
4. **Texts:** *Elements of Literature: Literature of Britain* (Sixth Course)
Selected novels and supplemental texts

Assessment

1. **Tests.** Occasional tests and quizzes will be given to measure student comprehension of material presented and discussed in class or read in the text. Tests will be announced in advance.
2. **Essays.** Students will compose several pieces of writing throughout the school year. Students will write reflective compositions, responses to literature, research essays, functional documents, informational essays, persuasive essays, and various informal writings.
3. **Projects.** Various individual and group activities will be assigned during the year. More information will be given at a later date.
4. **Homework/Participation.**

Grading Scale

98-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
93-97	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D

90-92 A- 80-82 B- 70-72 C- 60-62 D-
59 or < F

**Edison High School
KAP Language Arts
Course Syllabus - Quarterly
2015-16**

1st Quarter

Reading –

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley
Beowulf and *Bisclavret*
The Metamorphosis - Franz Kafka
selections from Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*
selections from Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*
independent novel
selected medieval ballads

Writing –

college admission essay
personal credo
personal narrative
“moral” story
literary critique

Speaking –

Frankenstein debates
literary canon presentation
personal credo

2nd Quarter

Reading –

Hamlet - William Shakespeare
Taming of the Shrew – William Shakespeare

Writing –

literary analysis

Speaking –

elements of a heroic quest presentation
formal debate
Shakespeare in 15 presentation

3rd Quarter

Reading –

selected Renaissance sonnets
selected poems from the 17th through the 19th century
excerpts from Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*
Sold - Patricia McCormick

Writing –

Sold essay
poetry essay
satire

Speaking –

Newspaper ballads
Sonnet recitation
Satire presentation

4th Quarter

Reading –

selected short stories from Joyce, Yeats, Woolf, Lawrence, Green, O'Connor
selected short stories by Chekhov, Dahlin, Maynard, Pentecost, Vonnegut
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

Writing –

persuasive essay
reflective writing
writing portfolio

Speaking –
research debate
farewell address

**Edison High School
KAP Language Arts
Larger Writing Assignments
2015-16**

In addition to several smaller essays and assignments, four large writing assignments will be completed during this course.

1. Literary Critique

Select a school/grade-level appropriate novel of your choice. After reading your selection, you will write a **4-5 page essay** and provide a 4-5 minute presentation to your classmates based upon the following premise:

You will make a presentation to the members of the local school board, convincing them that your novel belongs in the literary canon and should be included in the high school's curriculum. Consider our discussion of literature and your criteria for the literary canon in your presentation. You should discuss the book's strengths and any limitations or concerns you might have. Once the board members have heard all of the presentations, they will select the most convincing argument and recommend your book for adoption.

2. Literary Analysis

Students will complete a **4-6 page essay** that explores selected themes, topics, and literary criticism as it pertains to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The use of outside sources/ literary criticism to support your essay is required. More specific information will be given at a later date.

3. Persuasive, Research-Based Essay

Students will complete a **5-7 page essay** that defends a viewpoint on a selected topic. Your essay will include a minimum of five outside sources that are appropriately cited (MLA format) as well as an outline and works cited page. More information will be given at a later date.

4. Reflective Writing Portfolio

This assignment is actually ten assignments within one. Students will have the opportunity to write several short, reflective essays. They will complete this portfolio by the end of the school year. More information will be given at a later date.