

## Introduction to Literature 103/104 Course Syllabus

2017-2018

Instructor: Ms. Anne Stidham

New Albany High School

**Course Description:** This college-level class is designed to help students understand, enjoy, grapple, and interpret various pieces of literature from a personal interpretation to looking at it through various critical lenses. The teaching approach of KAP English 12 is that of teacher as facilitator. Discussion and analysis are student led—through seminar-style formats, presentations, and individual work. Students of imaginative literature are given a comprehensive analysis of the principal elements of fiction, poetry, and drama through the many lenses of critical theory that include Marxism, psychoanalytical, feminist, historical, reader-response, among others, in order to make logical literary judgments and interpretations. It is expected that students will comprehend, question, and connect out-of-class readings and resources prior to class in order to fully participate, contribute and question different, sometimes contrary, opinions and interpretations.

Students should also possess the ability to write organized and extensively supported analytical essays about literature using primary and secondary sources. Intensive literary analysis is assessed through objective questioning, writing, and class discussions of such genres as *The Kite Runner*, *Great Expectations*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Awakening*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *Brave New World*, *1984*, excerpts from *Paradise Lost* as well as a study of short stories, orations, film, non-fiction writings, podcasts, and documentaries. All books will be provided; however, it is highly recommended for you to have your own to annotate.

Finally, students will model their understanding of good writing in the construction of their own short story. Each week will have a day set aside for writing, collaborating, investigating, practicing, and editing. The short story will be in lieu of a semester and final exam.

Just a reminder: You will receive 8 semester hours of Kenyon College credit as well as earn two AP credits for taking this course, so it is without saying, your contribution should be commensurate with these high expectations.

### Grades will depend on the following:

- Formal and informal seminars, discussions, presentations, and group work
- Analytical essays and in-class writings
- Short story (includes process, drafts, editing, and collaborating)
- In and out-of-class assignments such as reading quizzes, online discussions, research, submissions, etc.
- Attendance/Cell Phones/Adherence to policies

I look forward to a great year!

Ms. Anne Stidham

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**Attendance:**

Please follow all attendance guidelines detailed in the handbook. Please note that per the State of Ohio, student absences will be assessed by hours missed and not days missed. If you miss a day on a due date, it is still your responsibility to get your work in on that date via email, Schoology or Google docs.

Block days are seminar/discussion/presentation days. Please avoid missing these days as make-up assignments are more tedious and the learning experience is degraded for both you and your group. You are allotted one day for every day you miss to turn work in or make up any assessment. It is your responsibility to make sure you adhere to this.

**Communication:**

All teachers have Office Hours for both of our conveniences. Please schedule a time to see me during those times. If you have a question about a grade or an assignment, see me in person if it is a lengthy concern. If you miss a day, please first rely on classmates, Schoology, and your agenda to see what you missed. If you need to see me, see comment above about coming during Office Hours. If you email me (or any other adult), please consider your manners.

**Letters of Recommendation and College Essay help:**

There will be allotted time in class to work on college essays. In addition, I will be available during Office Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays for you to schedule a conference. You will need to sign up on the calendar and only 15-minute consultations will be given. I will require 48 hours to read your essay, so please share it with me prior to our meeting.

If you would like for me to write a letter of recommendation for you, please give me plenty of notice and make time to see me so we can talk. Also, once you have asked me, add me to Naviance.

**Grades:**

They are not negotiable; however, if you feel an assignment was not fairly assessed, please come talk to me during Office Hours. During class is not conducive for these types of conversations. All assignments are read, commented upon, and returned at a reasonable time. Remember--Grades do not indicate who you are as a person; they indicate the mastery of the assignment. Please do not confuse the two.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:**

There is a time and place for both. As an enforced courtesy, during discussions and lectures all phones are to be put away and off your desk.

**Ethics:**

All work is to be your own. When in doubt, cite your work. Any plagiarizing—no matter how insignificant it may seem—will result in a zero for the assignment and possible removal from the course. Kenyon College has a strict policy.

**Common Sense:**

Do your best. Learn much. Contribute often. Broaden your world. Have fun.