

KAP/College IV- 103-104 Course Syllabus 2010-11

Students **will write essays** and develop portfolios of their work, including a multimedia autobiography. **Revision will be emphasized.** All compositions must be revised for the **final portfolio**. From reflective writing to the persuasive essay, a rich variety of writing will be explored. Students will be expected to show significant improvement in all areas of composition as the course evolves. While this is not purely a "composition" course, students are asked to work intensively on composition as part of a rigorous introduction to reading, thinking, and writing. During the semester, the instructor will assign quizzes, examinations, extended responses. Research writing will be examined (Ridgewood - MLA). To enhance word choice in writing, the class will improve vocabulary with *Sadlier Oxford Level G*.

This seminar approaches the study of literature through the exploration of themes in texts drawn from a variety of literary genres (tragedy, comedy, lyric poetry, epic, novel, etc.). The Anglo Saxon and Medieval historical periods are part of the first semester's studies. The first semester concludes with a shift to a study of the novel Gothic novel and the reading of *Jane Eyre*. The second semester focus is first on Shakespeare's sonnets and tragedies, and the semester concludes with more contemporary readings in *All the King's Men* and the nonfiction novel, *Outcasts United*.

Literary analysis by students will reflect the students' own interpretation of the classics with minimal dependence on others' interpretations. This course is designed to develop and enhance the skills of *effective communication* and also to develop a clearer understanding of what it means to look closely at a literary text.. Course content draws from a wide chronological range and from major literary genres. Identity, growth and life's pilgrimage are some of the many themes the class will explore. The literary emphasis is on the works' timeless applicability to life. This portion of class sessions are based on discussion of the literature. Actively participating in discussion is essential for earning credit for the class. Students are expected to recognize literary devices and style and assimilate these in their personal **prose**.

Reading may include but is not limited to: an epic - *Beowulf*; novels - *Jane Eyre*, *All the King's Men*, *Great Gatsby*; Shakespearean tragedies - *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and perhaps *King Lear* or *Antony and Cleopatra*; Shakespearean sonnets, Canterbury Prologue and Tales; literature of the Arthurian legend with excerpts from Mallory, White and Tennyson, and other works from literary anthologies. The nonfiction reading for this year is *Outcasts United*. In addition a look at American and English poets and poetry and the elements of poetry is part of the course.

Each literary age or work is followed by an in class essay examination. The students' assessments will be based on the clear development of a response, the ability to draw from the literary work with specific and relevant support, the citation of pertinent events in the artist's life and the age and the recognition of the universality of the work. These essays must reflect the basic elements of **good writing** organization.