

KAP ENGLISH IV
James Ford Rhoads School
Syllabus 2006-07
Instructor: Jane A Coleman

Students who qualify for the KAP course have the unique opportunity to participate in an accredited college level course, earning both high school and college credit simultaneously. This course, through the support of Kenyon College, is designed to elevate your proficiency in analyzing, discussing and writing about literature in a variety of modes. By analyzing a variety of text, you will learn to accumulate, process and edit information relevant to a given topic and to translate your understanding in clear, fluid essays. Course expectations will be set at a freshman college level.

In class we will focus on discussion of assigned readings (read outside of class time) on the themes and literary modes and strategies used by authors over a wide historical range. To this end a close analysis of the evolution of tragedy and comedy will be undertaken in classic to modern texts.

Students will maintain a portfolio of both short and extended writings ranging from stand-alone paragraphs to research papers. The purpose of this portfolio is to enable students to monitor individual progress in all aspects of composition (diction, syntax, organization, etc.) This portfolio will be utilized as an assessment tool in final grading.

The following plays and novels will be covered during the semester:

<i>Oedipus Rex</i> by Sophocles	or	<i>Antigone</i> by Sophocles
<i>Hamlet</i> by Shakespeare	or	<i>King Lear</i> by Shakespeare
<i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller		<i>Lysistrata</i> by Aristophanes
<i>Twelfth Night</i> by Shakespeare	or	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
<i>Plaza Suite</i> by Neil Simon		
<i>Thurber Carnival</i> by James Thurber		
<i>Crime and Punishment</i> by Dostoyevsky		
<i>Great Expectations</i> by Charles Dickens		
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neil Hurston		
<i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i> by David Guterson		

In addition, we will watch the following films:

<i>Medea</i>	<i>Hamlet</i>
<i>A Thousand Acres</i>	<i>A Midsummer Night;s Dream</i>
<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	<i>Les Miserables</i>

In addition to the required CMSD writing products (Career Passport, research paper, etc.) students will write a minimum of three typed papers (1-3 pages length) each quarter. Two of these products will be revised each quarter for portfolio submission as part of their final grade.

Essay topics include:

Quarter 1:

Essay #1: An essay on Oedipus' tragic hero

Essay #2: Analysis of the evolutionary changes in the tragic hero as seen in comparing a Greek tragic hero with a Shakespearean or Miller tragic hero.

Essay #3: Comparative analysis of comic elements in any two of the following texts: *Lysistrata*, *Twelfth Night*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Plaza Suite*

Quarter 2:

Essay #1: A thematic essay on *Crime and Punishment*

Essay #2: A thematic essay on *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Essay #3: An essay analyzing how themes in *King Lear* are expressed in *A Thousand Acres* or a comparative analysis of the theme of prejudice in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Snow Falling on Cedars*