

KAP (Kenyon Academic Partnership) English
English 111Y-112Y: Introduction to Literature and Language
Syllabus 2006-2007
Mr. Miller – Licking Valley High School
Work (740 763-3721)

Welcome to KAP English. Congratulations on being accepted and in having the fortitude to accept the challenge that this class for high achievers offers. You will be challenged to develop as a reader and writer, but more importantly as a *thinker* during the course of this class. This class is designed for these purposes and will ask you to absorb a broad range of significant literary texts in pursuit of these goals. During the course of the year we will be critically assessing selections of lyric poetry, the epic, short stories, the novel, drama, autobiography, the essay, and film. As this is a class geared toward critical thinking, we will not have a preponderance of traditional evaluative work such as quizzes and tests, but, rather, will focus mostly on written responses to the texts we read. Approximately 65% of your grade will be based on writing assignments, most in the 3-5 page range. Our class time will often be spent in discussion about the texts we are engaged with so you are expected to keep up with the reading. If not, do not expect to be successful in this class. Of course, because you are counted among our elite readers and writers, this should not be a concern. Gear yourselves up for a great experience! I am looking forward to our time together.

I. Summer Reading

A. The Power of Myth -- Joseph Campbell

1. individual student-led discussions on various sections of book
2. view Disney's "Pinocchio" and write 2-4pp. paper applying Campbell's themes to animated classic (ie. "The Hero's Journey")

B. Selections from the King James Bible

1. Genesis Chapters 1-9
2. Exodus Chapters 1-14
3. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
4. Revelations Chapters 14-22

C. Brave New World (Aldous Huxley) and Fahrenheit 451 (Ray Bradbury)

1. 3-5pp. paper contrasting thematic and stylistic differences
2. view "Blade Runner" and write 2-4 pp. paper exploring thematic similarities between novels' and film's futuristic visions

II. Short Stories

A. Flannery O' Connor

1. "Good Country People"
 - a. view the film *The Apostle* and write 2-4pp. compare/contrast paper comparing it to

- “Good Country People”
 - 2. “Enoch and the Gorilla”
 - 3. “A Good Man is Hard to Find”
 - a. 2-4pp. compare/contrast paper comparing themes of “Good Man” and the film *Sling Blade*
 - 4. “Revelation”
 - 5. Essay Test – focused on O’Connor’s “unconventional saviors”
- B. Write an original short story mimicking Flannery O’ Connor’s style and themes. (3-6pp.)
- C. Maya Angelou
- 1. “Graduation”

III. Essays

- A. Nearly every Wednesday will be Bedford Reader day during which we will study and critique a non-fiction work selected from the reader. Often you will be asked to write on essay topics related to our class discussions about our current reading. Other times we will answer questions in the book and allow these to lead us into (hopefully) meaningful and productive discussions.
- B. On occasion we will critique and write about non-fiction selections from The Kenyon Review

IV. Novels

- A. Frankenstein – Mary Shelly
 - 1. 3-5pp. paper - open topic
 - 2. “Frankenstein” film (original 1938)
 - a. 2-4pp. paper on reasons for the liberties James Whale took with Mary Shelley’s tale
- B. Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad
 - 1. 3-5 pp. paper discussing thematic similarities/differences among Heart of Darkness , Vachel Lindsay’s “The Congo”, “Apocalypse Now”, and Alan Paton’s Cry the Beloved Country
 - 2. Three 1-2pp. papers on, respectively, plot, character, setting
- C. Cry, the Beloved Country , Alan Paton
 - 1. 3-5 pp. paper on themes related to Cry and Heart (ie. effects of colonization on the colonized and the colonizers)
- D. A River Runs Through It, Norman Maclean
 - 1. 3-5pp. paper

V. Poetry

- A. Renaissance Poetry
 - 1. Research project on a Renaissance poet
 - 2. Study selections by: Spenser, Wyatt, Sydney, Raleigh, Donne, Herbert, Marvell

3. Be prepared to memorize, recite and critique a Shakespearian sonnet of your choice

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- B. In class poetry discussions and responses to miscellaneous poems (some taken from Kenyon Review)

VI. Plays

A. Hamlet

1. 3-5pp. paper (open topic)

B. The Tempest

1. Students are to develop their own test for the play, the best of which will be used as the assessment device for this unit.

VII. Epic

A. Beowulf

1. 3-5pp. paper (open topic).

VIII. Biography

A. Walden – Henry David Thoreau

1. “What Would HDT Do?” 2-4 pp. paper on modern environmental concerns and how individuals should respond.
2. Poem – “The Mad Farmer Liberation Front” – Wendell Barry
 - a. Discuss “echoes of Thoreau” in Berry’s poem

B. Pilgrim at Tinker Creek – Annie Dillard

1. 2-3 pp. paper – “How a Place Can Become Part of You”

IX. Films

- A. “Pinocchio”
- B. “Blade Runner”
- C. “Sling Blade”
- D. “The Apostle”
- E. “Dead Poet’s Society”
- F. “Hamlet” (Mel Gibson version)
- G. “Apocalypse Now”

X. Semester Exam Papers

A. First Semester

- i. Length - 8-10pp.
- ii. Topic – Open topic based on pre-approved novel you choose

B. Second Semester

- i. Length – 10-12pp.

- ii. Topic – Open topic based on pre-approved taken from recommended college reading lists

Work hard and have a great year!