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## Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

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**Quia Class Code:**

**Turnitin.com Class Code: Enrollment Password:** *theorists*

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*“Literature is a textually transmitted disease”.*

Yolen, Jane. "Touch Magic: Fantasy, Faerie, & Folklore in the Literature of Childhood." 2000.

Have you caught it? Yep, I heard it was contagious--that “textually transmitted disease” G.K. Chesterton called a “luxury.” Reading literature can feel like a luxury but can also be a burden. Theorists claim we are in a post-literate age in which no one needs to read literature or fiction. Why not just watch the film or TV show? Do we lose anything by not reading?

G.K. Chesterton stated, “fiction is a necessity;” Connie Willis said, “[Literature] is people who went before us, tapping out messages from the past, from beyond the grave, trying to tell us about life and death.” Is fiction a necessity? Does it offer messages from the past? Reading fiction, particularly literature, offers us a myriad of benefits: better memory, enhanced imagination, increased creativity, cognitive quickness, empathy development and more. Wow! Really all that from reading rather than watching. Yes.

Although the "official" descriptor for this course purports to “learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures," you will be asked to read and write not just to effectively engage with texts, but to transcend those texts as a means to communicate, connect, advocate.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to instruct students in the basics of formal written and oral literary analysis through application and analysis of literary strategies and modes. Supplemental lessons in style and mechanics compliment the assorted writing assignments and are engineered to encourage syntactic awareness and variety.

Units of Study	Themes	Anticipated Major Readings/Writing
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Critical Literary Theories</li> <li>2. College Applications and Scholarships</li> <li>3. Introduction of Poetry</li> <li>4. On-Demand Writing</li> <li>5. World Literature</li> <li>6. Writing and Thinking Literary Analysis</li> <li>7. Grad-itude Project</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Othering and Invisibility: CRT, Postcolonial, Neomarxist, Feminist/Gender</li> <li>2. The Panopticon: Crime, Control, and Punishment</li> <li>3. Language, Humor, &amp; Poetry</li> <li>4. Technology and humanity</li> <li>5. Shakespeare</li> <li>6. Theater of the Absurd</li> <li>7. Exam Prep</li> <li>8. Media/Pop Culture/Grad-itude</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">READING</p> <p><i>The Heart of Darkness</i>  <i>Invisible Man</i>  <i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i>                      Selections of Poetry                      Winter Break selections  <i>Frankenstein</i>                      Shakespeare Tragedy &amp; Comedy                      Theater of the Absurd selections</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WRITING</p> <p>Congressional Debates                      Literary Analysis                      Poetry Analysis                      Satire                      Narrative and more...</p>

## Required Materials

- Computer access (Turnitin accounts/email) and printer: **all homework should be typed (on Google Docs) and printed.**
- TWO three-ring binders, binder paper, pen, **18 binder index tabs**, 2 different highlighters, post-its, and page flags. *You may want separate binder for readings.*

## Course Norms/Expectations

As a college-level course, I adopt the rule of thumb for college courses: two hours of homework for every hour in class. Since we meet 5 hours/week, I plan with 10 hours of additional work in mind. While most weeks will not entail that amount of homework; some will. Please be prepared to dedicate time towards this course.

As we discuss course readings, do activities, share writing, and develop academic level discourses, I encourage all class members to take a reflective stance in their participation. Dewey offered three dispositions as the undergirders of reflective action: openmindedness, responsibility, and wholeheartedness. Zeichner and Liston (1996) unpacked these stances:

1. **Open-mindedness:** A class member who demonstrates “‘open-mindedness’ shows an active desire to listen to more sides than one, gives full attention to alternative possibilities, and recognizes the possibility of error in beliefs that are dearest to her/him.” Entering sympathetically into discussions with opposing points of view should offer nuance to previously held beliefs and critique of previously held assumptions.
2. **Responsibility:** A class member who demonstrates “‘responsibility’ carefully considers the consequences to which an action leads.” What are the personal, academic, social and political consequences of your participation or lack of participation?
3. **Wholeheartedness:** A class member who is “‘wholehearted’ regularly examines her/his own assumptions and beliefs and the results of her/his actions and approaches all situations with the attitude that she/he can learn something new.” I would add that wholeheartedness means engaging in all educational opportunities—readings, discussions, writing, and teaching—with genuine effort and interest in learning.

To that end, students must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Analy Student Handbook. Respect and politeness are required at all times. Arriving late, leaving early or other inappropriate behavior disrupts your learning and that of your classmates. Please arrive to class on time, be ready to work, be attentive, respect your classmates, and behave politely; i.e., no cell phones, texting or unauthorized computer use during class.

## Schedule of Assignments

A *tentative* schedule of assignments will be posted on Ms. Maxson's website and handed out. This schedule will be handed out in the first week of each quarter. Additional homework assignments or changes to the schedule will be written on the board and verbally explained.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need disability related accommodations for this class, please speak with me privately (tutorials or by appt) about your accommodations.

## ASSESSMENT POLICIES

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### Late Work Policy

**LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED!** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date, even if you do not attend class that day. Please plan ahead. I **don't accept late work**, as it's not fair to those who work hard to meet the deadline. In the event of a true emergency if I agree to make an exception, you need to contact me at least 12 hours before the assignment is due, so that we can discuss arrangements (via email) for turning in the work and the penalty in terms of points.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact another student to discuss the notes/materials from that class. The use of email for submission of assignments is limited to those occasions when you cannot attend class. **I must receive e-mailed assignments not later than 9:00 am on the due date. Please note that an e-mailed assignment is NOT a substitute for turning in a hard copy at the beginning of the class immediately following an absence. Failure to do so will result in loss of credit for the assignment.** \*Look to extra credit opportunities to make up points missed. \* **Students must turn in all final drafts/essays in order to be eligible for passing the class.**

### Grades

Your qualitative work will be assessed on the following standards-based scale:

- 1) Exceeds expectations and surprises (A/5(9) pts in 5(9) pt. scale/90+)
- 2) Meets standards consistently and exceeds at times (B/4(7) pts in 5(9) pt scale/80+)
- 3) Meets standard & offers expected or typical response(C/3.5 (5) pts in 5(9) pt scale/70+)
- 3) Approaching proficiency (D/3 pts in 5(9) pt scale/60+)
- 4) Deficient (F/1-2 pts in 5(9) pt scale) Yes, I do give "Fs" for work that does not mean the standard. Just doing it is not enough.

**Assessments are not calculated; they are determined. For this reason, I will not engage in "point" discussions. I will discuss the merits of the work.**

## QUARTER GRADES ARE PROGRESS REPORTS.

For quarter grades, the following numerical percentage ranges indicate grades:

A: 89.5-100.0+ B: 79.5-89.49 C: 69.5-79.49 D: 59.5-69.49 F: 0-59.49

**SEMESTER GRADES MATTER:** Semester grades are cumulative. Although not all of your grades will be displayed on Aeries at all times, each factors into your overall semester grade. The numerical percentage ranges are pre-set within Aeries.net.

### Attendance and Participation

Analy High School's Advanced Placement Course Attendance Policy

Students will be limited to **five (5) excused** absences during the first semester and **three (3)** during the second semester through the end of AP testing.

Excused absences are defined by school policy as illness, medical/dental appointments, college visits, field trips, and independent study contracts.

Grades will be lowered one-third step( eg. A- to B+) for exceeding the semester absences limit, plus 1% for each additional absence. If students have compelling and unavoidable circumstances for their absences, they must seek clearance from the school principal. School policy regarding unexcused absences remains in effect.

Loss of credit may occur if absences are excessive; please ask your counselor if you have questions regarding your attendance. Excused or not, tardies will cost you: (a latte does help assuage the situation) Participation points. Tardy absent? Participation points are lost. See Advanced Placement contract attendance policy

Please don't miss class because you can't turn in an assignment. Everyone has a rough day or two on occasion - the dog uses the paper you've worked on until 2 am as a chew toy, and then your printer runs out of ink; you have an argument with your significant other and simply cannot focus on reading 1984 and blogging about it. Please come to class anyway! If you miss class, you'll fall further behind.

**PRESENTATIONS/FINAL EXAMS: BE THERE!** Presentations and Final Exams must be done on the due date or receive a "0". With **sufficient** notice, I will do my best to schedule around conflicts. *Group Presentations will NOT be delayed due to absence of group members.*

**EXAMS AND QUIZZES, Make-up and otherwise:** Fair warning: if I tell you the components of an exam, allow you to have book and notes available to you during the exam: **BE PREPARED!** It's crunch time! Expectations will be high and your time will be limited. You are expected to be prepared for a mental (and digital) sprint to the finish line of that exam. Regarding make-up quizzes: *Answer:tutorial Tuesday/Thursday--that's it!*

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism can be as limited as a sentence or extensive as a whole paper. Because this course involves significant research elements, you must cite your sources properly. Do not copy, steal, or buy other people's work or writing. **You will receive zero points for any plagiarized work and may subsequently fail the course.** Because the stakes for academic honesty are so high, we will use turnitin.com for submission of work. The site provides a similarity report, so you might avoid any possible occasions of plagiarism in your work. Students should bear in mind that plagiarism is only one form of academic dishonesty and no forms of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course.

## PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

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### Parents-Student-Teacher Conferences:

They have a right to care about you, your progress, and your grades. I use Aeries.net, so they are able to chart your progress as you do, but in an effort to insure that you are harnessing the responsibility and autonomy needed to survive in college, you will be my first line of communication. Should we need a parent-teacher meeting, plan on attending—it's my policy.

### Questions about Grades/Protocol:

Students are expected to use Aeries.net to check grades. If you find a problem with your grade or we have discussed a personal issue regarding a grade (for example, turnitin.com has assigned you to review an incomplete paper, so I ask you to read someone's essay in hard copy), you should EMAIL me with an account of the situation or question, and I will correct the grade and/or email you my response in return.

### MLA Format:

MLA format is followed by colleges and universities worldwide in English classes. Learn it. Large fonts and odd spacing "read" as a lack of intelligence. Two exceptions: **please use 11 point font, 1.5 spacing.**

- MLA documentation required on all papers (see Purdue's Online Writing Lab)
- All major papers and essay final drafts are to be word-processed.

### Note Taking:

Periodically you will be assessed on your notes and organization. Therefore, I suggest loose-leaf paper and one of your binders divided into 5 sections:

- 1) Notes
- 2) Quick Writes
- 3) Grammar
- 4) Vocabulary
- 5) Themes

### Class Release:

Whenever you need to leave the class, sign out on the class release sheet at the front of the classroom. Only one student will be allowed out of class at a time. Chronic "releases" may result in discussion and loss of privileges.

### **Technology:**

In an effort to minimize misunderstandings and tech problems, I require you to use **Google Drive** for your documents, presentations (unless you are savvy with Prezi). I will not accept any excuses (my computer ate my homework). If it is on Google Drive, it is on Drive; you can access it anywhere, you can upload it to turnitin.com, and eliminates excuses. We will use:

- 1) **Aeries.net** for Grades. --Grades are not updated on a regular basis. Assignment grades are posted as they are assessed. Updated grades will be posted prior to required school deadlines; approximately every 6 weeks.
- 2) **Google Calendar** for Assignment Due Dates.  
--Calendar URL:x
- 3) **Reminder 101** for Emergency Messages ONLY. --If I will suddenly be out with a sick child, I will contact YOU with info. If I need to postpone an assignment, I will contact you.
- 4) **Quia.com** for Exams/Quia Class Code: --make sure your hit the web page when entering to take a new exam.
- 5) **Turnitin.com** for Papers & Online Responses/Class ID: --do not put your name on drafts, if you wish to remain anonymous to peer reviewers.  
--Make sure your paper is submitted correctly-- that mistake can cost you.
- 6) **Noodletools** or **Google Docs** for research (Info TBA)

**\*MAKE SURE YOU KEEP ALL OF YOUR LOG-IN and PASSWORD Information\***

### **Printer Policy:**

If you can't print at home, arrive at school 10 minutes early to print in the library or during break at the computer lab. My room is not equipped with a student computer/printer. I will not tolerate students coming in late to class because they had to print their papers. Tardies on days when assignments are due mean "o" on those assignments. Avoid stress and arrive prepared. \*FYI--College classrooms don't even have staplers, much less printers.

### **Writing Workshop:**

Modeled after a college writing workshop, students will be expected to share written work in self-selected groups for peer editing, proofreading, and assessment (in rare instances, I may have to place you w/ another group). Drafts will be reviewed by peers.

### **Essay Feedback:**

Addressing students writing for 20+ years, I've learned a few things: My writing instruction is seldom dogmatic or prescriptive; it is holistic and class-oriented. You will need to apply critiques given to model essays to your own writing. My feedback/assessment is given on rubrics. They detail strengths and weaknesses. If you wish to have early or personal feedback on your writing, you must make the effort to come see me for a one-on-one conference. Research shows that students often misunderstand the written feedback given on papers, so I advise you spend TEN focused minutes with me, which will do more for your writing than 40 minutes of my inking up your paper.

## Tiger OT/Maxson's Writing "Lab"

Because I do not believe writing all over your papers, in isolation, yields much success with improving writing, I suggest that students seek out time with the English teachers available at Tiger OT for one-on-one feedback. (Tiger OT is held the library 3-4pm MWTH) Beyond lunch tutorial (tutorial is often hijacked by absent students seeking make up work). I invite you to sign up for a one-on-one with me. *Sign up the previous week* for a Writing Lab slot and submit your draft to me one full day prior to meeting, so plan ahead. **Writing Lab Times include: Wednesday lunch and by appt.**

### Online Writing Lab

Purdue University Online Writing Lab offers self-paced, structured lessons to help students build sentence-level grammatical skills and mechanics, write clear sentences, develop strong paragraphs, develop an essay, and use research skills and documentation techniques. Each lesson includes quizzes that students may complete and go over with lab faculty or staff. Lessons also include links to learning resources, an in-depth lesson, and an explanation of how the skill is valuable in real writing situations. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

### Confused about an Assignment?

To seek clarification on assignments, make up tests, and receive work for independent study or field trip absences, see me at tutorial Tuesday/Thursday or by appt. A quick query can be made via email, but I have another job: Mommy. So don't expect a same day response if it's after 4 pm.—I'm on mom duty!

### Letters of Recommendation

You may need one or two...or twelve. Please *request* them rather than expect them. The Counseling Department has a form that I require before I will agree to write your letter. My letters are uniquely written for you, so time is of the essence.

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\*Exceptions to these policies may be granted at the discretion of the instructor and only for the most compelling, *documented* reasons.

### STANDARD PRACTICES:

- Yes, write on the back of the page--as long as your pen doesn't bleed through.
- No, you do not need to skip lines when you write--except between quickwrites.
- Yes, keep all the drafts of your work. Organize them most recent on front to least recent in back EXCEPT the rubric which should face out & on the back (Like an Oreo!)
- Yes, the rubric should always be on the back of your essays--facing outward.
- Yes, use pen and MLA heading unless told otherwise. Type your papers whenever possible. Use MLA format for all typed papers unless told otherwise.
- Yes, papers should be turned into the tray unless told otherwise.
- No, you should not turn make up work in the regular period tray; see me for or with ANY ASSIGNMENT not turned in at the originally assigned time.

### MAXSON's PECCADILLOES and PET PEEVES

1. Excuses! In *The Princess Bride*, the character Wesley states, "We are men of action." Man, woman, beast or otherwise, be a person of action. No excuses!
2. Tardies--In addition to being official marked tardy, you will receive no credit for work missed AND do not ask me to review what you missed when you come in. Lattes may be good compensation for your offense.
3. "Slippery fish"--rules, rules, rules--who needs them. Of course you are special; you ALL are. But you, well *you* are above the rules. And you do not have an excuse; you have a reason. You *need* those homework points. **No late work means no late work.** Please do not ask or test me on this point. I offer several extra credit assignments every quarter--and those are the means to improving your grade.
4. Cell phones! Have you seen the tv show, "Hoarders"? Guess what is inside all of Ms. Maxson's cabinets--stacks and stacks of former students' cell phones. So unless you want to add to Ms. Maxson's hoard, you should keep your phone out of sight. There will be times when I will direct those who have one to use it for a very specific educational purpose. I follow AHS policy on cell phone "captures."
5. Always have a pen at the ready and use MLA--assignments written in pencil receive a randomly assigned deduction (1 pts to 50% of the assignment).
6. Raise your hand and wait to be called on--before speaking.
7. Print your paper prior to the first bell of your class. **Asking me after the bell whether you can run quickly to the library will result in a "0" on that assignment.**
8. Listen respectfully to the teacher and your classmates.
9. **Do not** do homework for this class or other classes during instruction time.
10. If you use the restroom during class time or receive a call slip, you must sign out and may be asked to put your cell phone in the basket by the door to assure test security.
11. Academic Honesty, Please! Don't even think about copying homework--even for another class--this is a serious breach of academic integrity and will not be tolerated.
12. If you **MUST** eat, be discreet! And by all means, clean up after yourself.
13. Backpacks, Backpacks! Yes, I leap like a gazelle over backpacks, but I would appreciate greatly as I ease into my golden years to have clear paths in my classroom where I need not be an *American Ninja Warrior* clearing obstacles one at a time with great agility to survive my daily routine of teaching. Tuck those suckers in front of your feet/under the desk.
14. Discretion and courtesy: despite our desire for the world to be fair, it often is not. I will always strive to treat you equitably--despite my jokes that lattes will get you anything. *Please do me the courtesy of discussing concerns and issues with me first.*