

Welcome to English 12 acp and what I expect will be a challenging and enriching experience for all of us. Our journey together, from ancient Greece to contemporary American suburbia, will be in the company of some of the most important writers in the western tradition. We can't help but learn a great deal from them, and, of course, from one another. The success of the course, though, and the benefits you derive from it, will depend largely on your engagement, dedication and receptiveness.

In English 12 acp you will immerse yourself in literature and ideas. You will read and listen closely, think broadly and deeply and be receptive to new perspectives. You will make relevant, discuss and write about what you conclude. You will work to hone your powers of perception and self-expression. You will support your classmates.

Curriculum

Journeys

The Odyssey
O Brother, Where Art Thou?
The Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass
"Ulysses"
Deliverance
"The Big Two-Hearted River"
"Roman Fever"

The Human Universe

Hamlet
"The Open Boat"
"Strong Horse Tea"
"Happy Endings"
"Aubade," "The Cambridge Ladies," and other poems
Our Town
It's A Wonderful Life

The Melange

Zorba The Greek
A Good Man Is Hard to Find
"The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World"
"Paul's Case"
The Merchant of Venice

Darkness

Heart of Darkness
Apocalypse Now
The Things They Carried
Dear America

Identity and Voice

Interpreter of Maladies
My Life as A Dog
Poems by Mary Oliver and
Billy Collins
You Can't Take It With You

Expectations

You will come to class on time and prepared--which includes having with you your notebook, something with which to write and the pertinent text. Cutting class will not be tolerated.

Your work will be your own and a product of your best effort.

You will meet deadlines for all reading and writing assignments. If you anticipate a problem, let me know. Excuses after the fact will fall on unsympathetic ears.

You will adhere to the strictest tenets of academic and personal integrity. The consequences of any transgression will be severe.

You will be attentive, open-minded, receptive and responsible, and courteous to and respectful of others.

Assignments

You can expect an average of about forty pages of reading in preparation for each class meeting. Anticipate unannounced quizzes on the readings, as well as exercises to encourage and assess your mastery of vocabulary and the craft of writing. Absent students are responsible for making up promptly the work they missed.

Grading

Grading will be based on a point system. Your grade will be determined by what percentage the points you earned are of the total possible during each grading period. The significance of an assignment will be reflected in the number of points it is worth. For example, formal papers typically will be worth 25 points. Papers and DEs are worth, roughly, 65% of your grade; participation--again, roughly--20%. Quizzes and in-class exercises will make up the remaining 15%.

Discussion Essays and Papers

Discussion essays should not be less than 200 words, formal papers not less than 750. (Your senior paper in the spring, though, will be considerably longer.) Each is due at the beginning of class the day it appears in the syllabus. Late DEs will not be accepted for credit, late papers will be assessed a ten percent penalty a day. Both must be word-processed in a conventional font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. DEs must be more than just one paragraph. To get full credit for a DE you must define the word that appears in parentheses with each assignment. Papers must be accompanied by an assessment sheet.

Office Hours

Day 7, yellow block.