English 12 acp Curriculum and Expectations ’20 -’21

Mr. McCullough Rm. 215

Welcome to English 12 acp and what I expect will be a challenging and enriching experience for all of us—and, in the era of Covid-19, an exercise in open-mindedness, perseverance and agility. While much of it will be a bit strange and less than ideal, through every circumstance we will do our best. Our journey together 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 open 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. You will shoulder responsibility and work hard—and, this year, you will be quick to adapt to situations as they evolve.

Curriculum\*

Journeys Darkness

Stories from *In Our Time The Merchant of Venice*

*Deliverance Things Fall Apart*

“Impressions of an Indian Childhood” *The Things They Carried*

“A Worn Path” *Apocalypse Now*

“Paul’s Case” *Dear America*

“The Swimmer”

Identity and Voice

The Human Universe

*A Bell for Adano*

*Hamlet* Stories from *Interpreter of Maladies*

“The Open Boat” *My Life as A Dog*

“Aubade,” “To The Virgins…” and other poemsPoems by Mary Oliver and

“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” Billy Collins

*Our Town* *You Can’t Take It With You*

The Melange

*Zorba The Greek*

Stories from *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*

Poems by Pablo Neruda

*The Member of the Wedding*

\* This is the optimist’s list. Circumstances might require adjustments.

Expectations

You will come to class--both in person and on line--on time and prepared.

You will be attentive, receptive and responsible, as well as courteous to and respectful of others.

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. One late waiver a quarter is available for written work to those who need it.

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

You will abide by all Covid-19 protocols to the strictest standards and be prepared for any adjustments circumstance requires.

You will be patient with and responsible about any technical glitches that arise with our Google Meet sessions.

You will respond to communications promptly.

Assignments

You can expect an average of about forty pages of reading in preparation for each class meeting, in person or virtual. 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. Do not expect reminders from me.

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’s worth. Papers and DEs will account for roughly 60% of your grade; engagement (participation, conscientiousness, diligence, receptiveness) about 20%. Quizzes and other in-class experiences will comprise about 20%.

Discussion Essays and Papers

Discussion essays should be not less than 200 words, formal papers not less than 750. (Your senior paper in the spring 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.

The Plan

Caution about the virus requires of us alertness, flexibility, steadfastness and dedication. The plan is to meet three times a week, twice for a little more than an hour, once for a little less than half an hour. Until October 1, these meetings will be remote… for us on Google Meet. On the first of October, we will switch to the “hybrid plan,” which means those with last names beginning A-K will gather in Room 215 and those with last names beginning L-Z will check in on line at the beginning of the session and again at the end. I will have marching orders for you. The next day this switches: L-Z will be in class and A-K will be at home. On Wednesdays all of us (A-Z) will meet on line.

Remote communication will be through email. I will be using your school email address. Also, pertinent information will be available on Canvas. Keeping up to date with what’s happening is your responsibility.

For all Google Meet sessions, you must be punctual, prepared and ready for class (i.e., no lolling in bed or waving blithely from atop your skateboard in the parking lot at Linden.) When it’s time to begin I will email the password to join. Unless you have official dispensation or an acutely compelling reason you’ve cleared with me, your camera must be on. This is class, too, authentic and on the record. Be ready to work.

Assigned reading will be either handed to you by me in person or available on line. Written work will be either handed to me by you in person or submitted as an attachment to an email. If your section of the class meets in person the day an assignment is due, I’ll expect the work on paper. If it meets on line that day, submit the work as an attachment to an email.

All of this is of course subject to change.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

My email address is mcculloughd@wellesleyps.org.