

AP English Literature and Composition/English 12
Course Description and Policies
***Class website: cheriewalsh.weebly.com

Mrs. Cherie Walsh
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Office hours by appointment:
sign-up sheet on door

Description

Students may take English 12 for honors-level credit or as AP English Literature and Composition. We'll continue to build our analytical reading and writing skills as we explore texts from European Literature.

This year's course has a special concentration on the novel, though the course features an *advanced poetry unit* in the winter. Our longer readings include:

Hamlet by William Shakespeare
Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy, trans. Rosamund Bartlett
"The Dead" by James Joyce
Excerpts from *In Parenthesis* by David Jones
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh

Students who take the course for AP credit will read the above texts as well as:

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, trans. Oliver Ready
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard
How To Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

AP students must attend the AP "lab" on Thursdays during 7th period.

Grading

You should know that students revise major papers for English 12/AP English Literature and Composition until they meet the standards of the class. Students will have multiple meetings with me as they draft and rewrite—my thinking is that high school is an important time for students to learn academic writing, and this format gives them individual attention that can meet them where they are and allow their skills to grow. Once a student receives a stamp (of approval) in a meeting, she has earned an A on the paper. (Because major papers are a requirement of the class, students must complete them—even if they don't get the stamp—in order to pass.)

AP students will periodically submit a portfolio of revised writing assignments.

The midterm for the class will use the AP Literature exam format, beneficial to both AP and honors students, and test material we have read. The sections will be graded at the student's selected class level, even if there is overlap in material on the test. Students who have regularly met the requirements of the AP class—out-of-class meetings, regular assignments—and who take the AP exam will be exempt from the final.

Absences

The revolution will not be televised. Jupiter and the class website notwithstanding, most learning in English class happens at the seminar table, through classroom activities, discussions, and lectures. You are a part of a learning community. Please come to class if it is at all possible for you to do so; please come on time.

Because of the block schedule this year, students who a Monday or Thursday class have missed two classes.

If you have to miss class, you should

hand in homework electronically to keep up, on time if possible

be able to join the day's activity upon re-entry

have the homework that's due upon re-entry

use the website, classroom handout tray, and classmates to get notes, etc.

ask the teacher what they have missed

If a student knows she has to re-enter unprepared, she must contact the teacher before class to make a plan; otherwise, late work can't receive full credit.

Work that is late for any reason must be handed into the classroom tray designated for that purpose.

All work must be labeled properly.

If you upload late work to a Jupiter assignment (totally acceptable), you must write a note on a piece of paper and place it in the tray, so that the teacher is sure to look for the submission online.

Submission of work

Most assignments will be able to be submitted through a Jupiter assignment. In the first week, we will make sure that everyone is able to upload her assignments using Jupiter. Printed or handwritten paper documents turned in during class are also perfectly fine.

Emailed assignments and assignments sent as a message through Jupiter are not acceptable, though I will answer your questions and correspond with you generally on email or Jupiter message.

All work, typed or handwritten, must be double spaced and follow the basic MLA format for assignments, with a reasonable heading and assignment title, as well as any other orienting information that can help the reader (such as the number of the study question answered).

Poem memorization

Memorizing poems is important to the culture of Brookewood School K-12. Students who memorize a poem for recitation:

- gain experience with public speaking
- learn to trust themselves
- internalize structures of syntax to increase their understanding of how sentences can work
- internalize patterns of sound
- increase vocabulary in a permanent way

In English 12, students will memorize one poem that corresponds to each major text in the course.

Vocabulary

Students can expect a vocabulary study to correspond with each major text of the course this year; the special emphasis will be on being able to infer word meanings from etymology/word parts as well as through the context of the word as presented in the literature we study. Students will also need to be able to generate synonyms and antonyms. While the literary components of English 12 receive the most emphasis, the continuous building of vocabulary and cultivation of close-reading skills serve the students well at this level.