

Honors English IV Syllabus 2007 – 2008

“We know what we are, but not what we shall be.”

Introduction to Course

College / Scholarship Essay. Due _____

Extended essay / term paper. “Philosophy of Life” Due _____

Unit I: Establishing the Basics

Symbols and Archetypes

Key Literary Terms

Unit II: Early England through King James.

History of the English Language & The Medieval Period / Chaucer

King James Bible

Henry VIII – Elizabeth I

Shakespeare – Hamlet

Unit III: The Passions That Destroy

Frankenstein. Shelley.

Wuthering Heights. Bronte.

The Mousetrap. Christie.

Unit IV: The Search for Self

Pygmalion. Shaw.

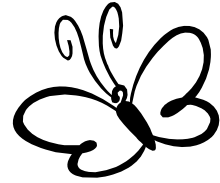
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Stevenson.

Unit V: The Art of the British Comedy

The Importance of Being Earnest. Wilde.

Unit VI: Carpe Diem!

Dead Poet Society. [Film] If time! ☺



Literary Selection Rationale

History of the English Language & Early Society.

Herein lie the roots of our American language and culture. By understanding our roots, we can better appreciate the language we speak and the culture in which we live.

King James Bible

Whether one regards this work as God's Word or as a secular masterpiece, knowledge of the Bible is a given to understand Western history and literature. While we can't begin to cover it all, we will do background information, the book's organization, and a selection of basic stories which our literary selections will allude to.

Hamlet

A literary classic, considered Shakespeare's greatest play. We will explore the issues of loyalty, power, love, and revenge. While written in the 1600's, the situations are surprisingly "today." We will be reading it aloud in class; prepare to be dramatic.

Frankenstein

This book may not quite be what you expect! Written by the young Mary Shelley, it became a classic and influenced Hollywood for years. We will explore the themes of responsibility, technology, and nature vs. nurture in human development. Also, we will do a parallel study of the 1930s films "Frankenstein" and "Bride of Frankenstein," which are loosely based on the novel.

Wuthering Heights.

Wuthering Heights is a challenging "dark" novel teeming with passion and star-crossed lovers. The themes of love, revenge, self-sacrifice, class differences and loyalty will receive our attention. Prepare to be somewhat confused!

The Mousetrap

This classic modern play, by Agatha Christie, is the longest running play in the world. You'll love the twists and turns of the plot. Plan to "detect" as we go along and to enjoy the surprising ending! We will be reading it aloud in class; enjoy!



Pygmalion

This Victorian era play was made into the popular musical “My Fair Lady.” We will study Victorian culture, and consider the bigger issues of class differences. As Eliza strives to better herself, we will follow her journey into independence – or not!

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

To accompany our Victorian play, we have Robert L. Stevenson’s classic Victorian mystery/drama. Main issue? Human nature – the good and the bad in all of us. The story is told first person, back to front, so prepare to be confused!

The Importance of Being Earnest

This popular play features humor based on puns, word play, and distorted situations. While entertaining, it is also challenging. Underlying important themes? There really are none, other than the challenge of “getting” the humor. Good for the brain! Enjoy.

Basic Rules and Procedures

Electronic gear will be picked up, labeled, and made available for pick up the next day at designated location. If this will annoy you, then keep it tucked away, earphones included.

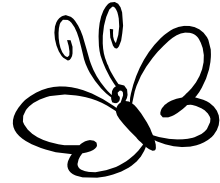
Make up work may, at teacher’s discretion, be different from what the class did, but will be of comparable difficulty. Obviously, this will cut down on the temptation to just copy a friend’s work!

Late work will be given a maximum score of 69%. Once we have gone over the work it is late, unless you have an excused absence. In that case, school policy will apply.

Be prepared to be up front presenting, reading, and acting – usually with the support of a group! As future leaders and pacesetters, you need all the practice you can get being in charge. If you’re shy, we’ll work it out! ☺

All work **MUST** be turned into the wooden box on front table. Do **NOT** put it on my desk, as it may get misplaced. **THE BOX!**

You chose to be in this class; therefore, behavior problems will be non-existent. Likewise, when a work proves difficult, I can only suggest using as many study aides as possible along with some hard work. Enjoy!



Odds and Ends

Work for each unit will include film clips, poetry study, artwork, AP multiple choice selections, AP timed writings, seminars and quizzes / tests.

Suggested supplies include a large loose-leaf binder with section tabs, yellow highlighters, a paperback dictionary, and personal copies of the selected works so you can mark them. Oh, yes – Cliff or other study aides will be of great value!