

"Language fits over experience like a straight jacket." William Golding

As seniors, you will have the extreme pleasure to explore various literary works, enhance your writing and oratory skills, and grow into extraordinary individuals ready for the world. We embark on this adventure together and I look forward to great things from each one of you.

## Course Description

Beginning with the Anglo-Saxon epic poem, *Beowulf*, students will explore several periods of British Literature culminating with the modern novels, *Lord of the Flies* and *Frankenstein*. Students will delve into the Renaissance by studying poetry and the Shakespearean plays, *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. By reflecting on the historical events of the period, students will discover the history's influence on the development of the English language and its literature. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills will be enhanced with special emphasis on the transformation and interpretation of literature and through analytical and reflective writing. Class discussions, reading comprehension quizzes, unit tests, oral readings and interpretations, in-class and out-of-class themes, and creative writings will be utilized for evaluation purposes. In addition to the concentration on British Literature, this course provides students with multiple resources needed to facilitate the transition to college level English and the world of work.

## Scope and Sequence

Units covered within the course, in no particular order include: Anglo-Saxons, Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Professional Writing. Also the novels *Lord of the Flies* and *Frankenstein* will be included as units.

## Participation

In order to make this class enjoyable for us all, I will need your cooperation and participation in class discussions. Attending class on a daily basis surely will help promote a positive environment and is a necessity toward concluding your senior year. I welcome your opinions on the interpretation of our readings and believe your views are important and worth hearing. Please do make sure to censure your comments and dialogue for both school appropriateness and constructive criticism. Participation will be heavily valued and count toward a portion of your grade. **Remember: You must READ the literary selections in order to have an understanding of the lecture and discussion. In almost every aspect of life, whether it is a newspaper, a magazine, or an Internet website, you will need to read. Knowing how to decipher what is important and pull out the necessary information will be crucial to being successful in the choices you make throughout your life. ☺**

In addition, please respect the following **BRAVE standards of behavior**:

Be safe: Listen to staff and maintain personal space.

Respect others: Be on time, be polite, and use appropriate language and tone.

Be accountable: Be prepared, be honest, do your own work, use electronic devices only when permitted.

Be victorious: Do your best work and celebrate academic success.

Be enthusiastic: Have a positive attitude and take ownership of learning.

Please also keep in mind the following rules regarding our **departmental academic integrity**:

\* Accurately cite all sources

\* Accurately represent your sources

\* Read all assigned readings to assure accuracy

\* Do not copy another person's work

\* Do not give your work to others

\* Proofread your work to assure accuracy

\* Include a list of works cited for all compositions

\* Do not download a composition from the Internet

\* Do not make up quotes that are not in the text you have read

\* Do not write a paper for one course and turn in the same paper for another course

## Required Materials

It is a sign of maturity to be prepared for class. The following items are required on a daily basis: potential daily iPad use so make sure it is charged, pen and/or pencil, a two-pocket folder, and assigned novel or textbook (depending on unit being covered). Mrs. Vasko will be using a one-way only Remind account so please sign up for these reminders using the handout to be provided within the first few days of class as well as the Canvas LMS.

## Proofreading/Editing Rule

Formal writing rules will be the focus of the course. When turning in any documentation it will be the class rule to eliminate all contractions in your writing AND to eliminate all use of the pronoun "YOU" as well as colloquialism and slang expressions that convey an informal tone. Points will be deducted when used so please make sure to proofread/edit prior to turning in any documentation.

## Assignments/Makeup

All writing assignments should be completed in MLA style format. Attending field trips, sporting events, and other school-related absences will not excuse you from turning in assignments on time. It is your responsibility to determine what work was missed when absent from class. Most all documents will be stored on Canvas. For an explanation of any missed assignments, see me at a convenient time that does not interfere with class. Obtaining work that is missed is the sole responsibility of the student.

## Assessments

A variety of student assessments will be used throughout the course. Evaluations will consist of tests/quizzes, reading comprehension quizzes, oral readings and interpretations, numerous written submissions (analytical and creative), classwork, homework, projects, and participation. Tests will be announced in class and listed via emails and/or Remind prior to the expected test date. Every effort should be given to make up these items during a study hall, or during lunch. Should you choose to take these items during class, activities will continue and you will still be responsible for the current day's work.

## Late Work Policy:

- Work assigned on the day a student is absent must be made up by the number of days absent.
- Assignments due on an excused absence day are due promptly upon your return.
- **Homework turned in one day late will receive half credit. No work will be accepted more than five days late for any credit. This bullet will be strictly abided by!!!!**
- **Multiple Day Projects with a due date given will receive no additional days outside of class if absent. Budget accordingly and make prior arrangements with me if missing class due to Steel Center commitments. This bullet will also be strictly abided by!!!!**
- If you are present during any part of the day, it is your responsibility to turn in homework to Room 116.
- No credit will be awarded for any unexcused absence per school district policy.

## Grading Policy

All grades will be based on total points accumulated from the above requirements and on the school district's grading scale for a year long course as described in the program of studies.

## Instructors' Message

Students, we welcome opportunities to help you throughout the course and encourage you to make appointments to see us if you are experiencing difficulty at any time. Please feel free to email Mrs. Vasko at [kvasko@efsd.net](mailto:kvasko@efsd.net) if needed.

**\*\*Any portion of this syllabus is subject to change by the teachers based on the needs of the course and class.**

