Student Options for 12th Grade English

Mira Costa High School
English Department
2019-2020
College Prep English

English 12 CP
And
Senior Seminars
English 12 CP: Course Description

- Course Title: English 12 CP
- Length of Course: 1 year
- Semester Periods of Credit: 5
- Fulfills UC/CSU Requirements: Yes
- Meets District Graduation Requirement: English
- Focuses on contemporary world literature and connects to social issues; is designed for students to explore both individual and societal identity while also preparing students for post-high school education and career goals.
Literature

Core Works:

• Watson, *Montana 1948*
• Camus, *The Stranger*
• Kingsolver, *Bean Trees*
• Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*

Examples of extended Works (not a complete list):

• Biography/autobiography outside reading
• Guterson, *Snow Falling on Cedars*
• Hillenbrand, *Unbroken*
• Trumbo, *Johnny Got His Gun*
• O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*
• Kafka, *Metamorphosis*
• *Selected poems, short stories, plays, and essays*
Supplementary Material

• Selected films related to the literature (some may require parental consent due to the Restricted rating, but all illustrate themes and concepts studied in the literature) – examples include (not a complete list):
  • *Platoon* (Best Picture, 1986, one of AFI’s 100 Greatest Films, Director, Oliver Stone) OR *Apocalypse Now* (nominated for Best Picture, 1979, , one of AFI’s 100 Greatest Films, Director, Francis Ford Coppola)
  • *Shawshank Redemption* (nominated for best picture, 1994, , one of AFI’s 100 Greatest Films)
  • *Unforgiven* (Best Picture, 1992, one of AFI’s 100 Greatest Films, Director, Clint Eastwood) OR *Gran Torino* (Director, Clint Eastwood), and others.
Writing and Speaking Opportunities:

• Autobiographical Writing: college essay, resumé and cover letter, job/scholarship application
• Interpretive Writing: analysis of literature and film
• Controversial Issue Writing: research paper
• Reflective Writing: personal blogs, etc.
• Evaluative Writing: book critique/review
• Public Speaking: example – song analysis (and performance), teaching of lessons on literature, mock interviews, original presentations
Hope to see you in class next year!
Philosophy in Literature
with
Mrs. Cabrera

Check out the course website: www.philinlit.com

Philosophy—literally the ‘love of wisdom’—is a study of ideas, the nature of reality, how we know the things we know, and why we live the way we do.

This class explores the way authors have addressed the world and their own lives and ideas through creative writing. We will find the answers to the unanswerable questions of our existence.

Aristotle:
“What does it mean to be a good person?”

Descartes:
“What does it mean to be?

Nietzsche:
“What does it mean?”

Bertrand Russell:
“What does 'it' mean?"

C.S. Lewis:
“What does it?”

Lil Jon:
“What?”
• Is a person a “person” the same way a dog is a “dog?”
• Is Boredom the “root of all evil?”
• Is it better to be *Kind* or *Right*?
• If God created everything... what created “God?”
• Is it possible for boys and girls to be friends, or must there always be some level of attraction by one (or both) at some point in the relationship?
Major Questions:

• “What is Real?” and “What is Existence?”
  • Philosophers: Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume
  • Text: *Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis

• “Who am I? How do I know?”
  • Philosophers: Plato, Kant, Hegel
  • Text: “The Secret Sharer” by Joseph Conrad

• “Am I Free? Can I make free choice?”
  • Philosophers: Kierkegaard, Camus, Sartre, Nietzsche
  • Text: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus

• “What is Moral, Good, and Right/Wrong?”
  • Philosophies: Stoicism, Behaviorism, Consequentialism, Marxism, Virtue Ethics
  • Text: *Point Counter Point* by Aldous Huxley
What to Expect from this Class

• Something new
• A challenge
• Polarized views (and the grey areas that make them interesting)
• New literature (duh)
• (hopefully) Meaningful (to you) ideas
• Passion and enthusiastic discussion
Thanatology

“That Death Class.” – Most kids at Mira Costa.
Introduction to Thanatology

• Thanatology is a class that focuses on:
  • creating a safe environment for students to discuss a culturally taboo topic in a non-religious setting.
  • promoting the evaluation of values that students currently have or are developing.
  • reflecting on the experience of death as structured by cultural and societal forces.
  • promoting an understanding of the process of grieving and dying.
  • improving the quality of life for those taking this course.
Thanatology Key Works

• *Tuesdays with Morrie* – Mitch Albom
• *Everything I Never Told You* – Celeste Ng
• *Wit* – Margaret Edson
• *The Last Lecture* – Randy Pausch

“Death twitches my ear;
'Live,' he says...
'I'm coming.”

— Virgil
Themes in American Literature and Film

• This course is an extension of your junior year studies in American Literature and American History.
• It uses novels, short stories, poetry, and film to explore 4 thematic units.
• Much of the course content contains adult themes and situations. Be sure to take this into consideration making class selections.
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<th>Unit 1: Rural Identity in America</th>
<th>Unit 2: The Virtual Self</th>
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<tr>
<td>• <em>Mud</em> (film)</td>
<td>• <em>Her</em> (film)</td>
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<td>• <em>Winter’s Bone</em> (film)</td>
<td>• <em>Ex-Machina</em> (film)</td>
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<td>• <em>Brokeback Mountain</em> (film)</td>
<td>• Snowden (film)</td>
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<td>• <em>Close Range: Wyoming Stories</em> (short stories)</td>
<td>• Additional short stories and nonfiction texts</td>
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<td>• Literary analysis essay</td>
<td>• Research/argumentative essay</td>
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<th>Unit 3: America at War</th>
<th>Unit 4: Coming of Age in Modern America</th>
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<td>• <em>Flags of our Fathers</em> (film)</td>
<td>• <em>The Graduate</em> (film)</td>
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<td>• <em>Platoon</em> (film)</td>
<td>• <em>The Virgin Suicides</em> (film)</td>
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<td>• <em>The Hurt Locker</em> (film)</td>
<td>• <em>What’s Eating Gilbert Grape</em> (film)</td>
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<td>• <em>The Things They Carried</em> (novel)</td>
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Overview of Women’s Literature

Unit 1: The Origins of Women’s Rights
• Read historical political speeches (Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, etc.)

Unit 2: Freud, Feminism, and Female Sexuality
• Learn about Freudian thought and how famous feminists reacted to Freud
• Interrogate issues of sexuality
• Read essays (Jong, Friedan, and Steinem), poetry, and film analysis; watch *Planet Terror*
Overview of Women’s Literature

**Unit 3: Desperate Housewives**
- Read short stories about housewives who rebel (Chopin, Gilman, Bender, Homes)
- Watch *Revolutionary Road*, *The Stepford Wives*, and selected clips from television shows

**Unit 4: Handmaid’s Tale**
- Read the dystopian novel *The Handmaid’s Tale*

**Unit 5: Contemporary Women’s Rights Issues**
- Research paper and presentation
APOCALYPSE LITERATURE

With Mr. Piorek
Apocalypse Literature

This class will take an in-depth look at literature that depicts the end of the world, either literally or metaphorically.
Apocalypse Literature
We will study both apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic literature with an overarching focus on the way that apocalyptic literature seeks to present images of destruction to serve as both warning and revelation.
Apocalypse Literature
Our study of apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic literature will range from Biblical and Ancient portrayals of apocalypses...
Apocalypse Literature
...up to more modern treatments of the issue
A Note on Content
- Depictions of the end of the world can get intense and may at times include more explicit depictions of violence or mayhem.
- The depiction of these topics ranges from mildly disturbing, to somewhat graphic (R Rated). Please see the list of books and films used in the class.
APOCALYPSE LIT. SEMINAR

Books
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy (2006)
- *Day of the Locust* by Nathanael West (1939)
- “The Book of Revelation”
- Plus many more short stories and poems

Films
Dangerous Books
literature is not here for your protection

• All great literature is unsettling and alarming
• This is NOT “banned books”
• This is books with themes which deal with
  • Taboo subjects
  • Racial bias
  • Sexual confusion
  • Societal mis-information
When Books Tell Us Who We Are

This course will introduce you to fundamentals of literary style, form, and history, and to approaches to reading and interpretation. It will also mean paying close attention to your own writing, in a series of brief essays and blog contributions in which you’ll learn better how to meet the demands of college-level writing while striving always to be a dangerous writer yourself.

Personal Identity

M Butterfly
Degress Separation

Life Imitates Art

Six

Political Identity
Law

Angels In America

Breaking the

Breaking Bad
Dramatic Readings

Much of the reading will be done in class.
Socratic Seminar and small group discussions along with presentations and projects will be the main basis of evaluation.

Our collective participation in the exploration of topics sometimes considered “impolite” or “unsettling” will help us explore the edges of what it means to participate fully in our own exploration of this one life we have been granted.
Love Marriage and Delusion

What draws us into romantic relationships? How do we develop our sense of our self as a partner to others? We will discuss the assigned reading with an eye to exploring how the issues of love, marriage and partnerships are defined by ourselves and society.

We will examine the many forms that love has taken in human history. By looking at the many ways that human beings have loved, and at the many things they do love, we will shed light on our own loves, hopes and dreams. Our ultimate goal will be to learn that love can heal us as well as hurt us, and that it might sometimes be wise, as well as foolish, to fall in love.
Key Works

• Movies
  • The Loving Story
  • The Kids are Alright
  • Intolerable Cruelty

• Novel Length Works
  • The Marriage Plot
  • The Wife
  • The Inner Circle
Methods and Assessment

• Readings will mostly be addressed in Socratic Seminars and short papers. Responses to readings in short paper format will be shared in “read around” style so that all class members will be exposed to the reactions of their peers.

• Independent research and presentations will be used to finalize ideas about topics explored during the semester.
AP Literature and Composition
What to Expect

• Rigorous, college-level course
  • Lots of reading: novels, plays, short stories, poems, essays, etc.
  • Lots of writing: 2-4 essays per month

• Discussion-based class

• No set curriculum: teachers teach to their individual interests and passions

• Effective preparation for demands of college
AP English Literature and Composition

• There is no testing or application process for enrolling in AP. You may enroll in AP:
  • If you are in English 11 Honors and you have earned B’s or better both semesters; or
  • If you are in English 11 CP and you have earned A’s both semesters.
• You may submit a waiver form to be considered for entrance if you are within one grade of meeting your prerequisite.
Summer Reading

• English 12 CP/Senior Seminar
  • No official assignment, but you should read over the summer! Duh

• English 12 AP Literature and Comp
  • Two Texts: one novel, HTRLLAP
  • Questions to answer
  • Significantly Reduced from years past