

Challenge Early College High School
English IV 2011-12

Dr. Guilfoyle

Room 255A

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This course is designed to prepare students in the areas of reading comprehension and effective writing to move beyond high school to the next step of their education. Centered on British literature, the class will also expose students to writing from a variety of countries and cultures and encourage them to engage in discussions around cultural heritage and diversity. In addition to studying classic works from around the world, students will engage frequently in various forms of writing. They will work on crafting college application and scholarship essays, persuasive essays, literary analysis, and research writing. Students will refine their writing skills using self and peer editing to perform revisions and polish papers. SAT reading and vocabulary practice will also be incorporated into the class to help enhance student performance on the SAT test.

Textbook: *British Literature, Grade 12* Holt McDougal

Supplies

- Loose leaf, college ruled paper
- Binder
- Spiral notebook
- Blue or black pens and pencils
- Highlighter
- USB

Grading

Grades are assigned on a total points basis. Each assignment is weighted according to the number of points it is worth. For example, quizzes and in-class assignments may be worth 20 points whereas essays and tests may be worth 100 points. Assignments will include, but will not be limited to:

- Response journals
- Participation
- Essays
- Projects
- Tests and quizzes

Late work will be penalized 10% each day. After 5 days the assignment will not be accepted.

Units of Study

Unit One: Cultural Perspectives

This unit will introduce a variety of literature from different cultural perspectives and explore the way in which racial and cultural heritage influence our world views. We will read, discuss and write about literature from a variety of cultures and enrich our reading with visual media that explores different racial and cultural perspectives.

Unit Two: Personal Essays

Unit two will use the knowledge gained in the first unit to develop ideas for college and scholarship application essays. Often these essays require students to discuss unique aspects of their own identities and experiences that might relate to their racial and cultural backgrounds. We will work on revising and editing these essays to prepare them for submission.

Unit Three: Anglo Saxon Literature

In this unit we will return to past ages to explore some of the roots and origins of Western literature. These texts provide insight into our own storytelling traditions and cultural perspectives and also help us to understand the importance of narrative to all communities and cultures.

Unit Four: Literature of the Middle Ages

Unit four will explore the transitions that took place as a result of the Norman invasion of England and the literary works that emerged from that time period. Focusing on *The Canterbury Tales*, we will also read selections from the Arthurian legends and poems from the time period.

Unit Five: Renaissance Literature

In this last unit of the first semester we will read Shakespeare's *Othello*, itself the story of a tragedy that results from racial and cultural difference. In addition to reading and discussing the play, we will examine other Renaissance texts and discuss similarities and differences between their world views.

Unit Six: Restoration and Eighteenth Century Literature

Unit six will focus on the use of satire in eighteenth century and also contemporary literature. Using the work of Jonathan Swift as a starting point, we will engage in discussions and analyses of the techniques and purpose of satirical writing. Students will also write their own satirical piece.

Unit Seven: Romantic Literature

For this unit, students will select a novel written in the Romantic style and will work individually to complete various assignments related to their novel. We will also read and discuss the poetry of the Romantic authors and the shifts that took place in world views during the nineteenth century.

Unit Eight: Twentieth Century Literature

Unit eight will explore the various cultural and literary changes that took place over the course of the twentieth century. We will examine how major historical events, such as the two world wars, impacted the literary world, and explore the increasingly diverse literary works that made their way into the public eye during this time.