

English IV Honors Syllabus
Mr. Kevin Kasenow and Ms. Gillian Day-Leighton

12th Grade Honors English Syllabus

12th grade Honors English is designed to increase students' reading, writing, speaking, listening, analytical, and argumentative skills in preparation for rigorous college work, and at the same time to foster an appreciation and understanding of our intellectual and artistic heritage. To this end, literature, nonfiction, film and philosophy will be presented as interconnected and mutually dependent. Students will be held to high academic standards and will be expected to read and analyze literature and film, write well-organized, well-argued, and grammatically correct papers, make short dramatic presentations, and participate actively in small group and classroom discussions. Regular attendance is crucial to academic success, as many daily classroom activities intended to promote critical thinking are impossible to duplicate with make-up work. Upon completion of this course, students will have studied some of the finest achievements of the human mind and honed their own analytical and persuasive skills – and, I hope, have developed an appreciation for our common cultural heritage.

Because effective communication is so critical, the course will also stress writing, grammar, and vocabulary instruction. To that end, weekly quizzes will alternate between cumulative grammar quizzes and cumulative roots quizzes. The class will make regular use of released material from the New York State Regents Exam in order to bolster student skills. Quarterly assessments will offer students the opportunity to practice both writing skills and the reading and grammar skills tested by the ACT and SAT exams.

Students will be expected to obtain copies of Brave New World, Frankenstein, Their Eyes Were Watching God, and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (indicated by star next to title) but many plays and poems will be provided by South Fort Myers High.

Introduction to Literature and Writing (3 weeks)

Tragedy (6 wks.)

Sophocles, Oedipus Rex (handout)
Shakespeare, Macbeth (textbook)

presentation of a scene from Macbeth

Women in Society (5 wks.)

The elements of formal logic and argumentation
Walker, "Everyday Use" (handout)
Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (ch. 1)

Selection of argumentative essays
Ibsen, A Doll's House (handout)
*Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

Neoclassicism and Romanticism (5 weeks)

Swift, "A Modest Proposal" (handout)
Satires of James Thurber (handout)
Voltaire, Candide (handout)

the poetry of William Blake (handout)
the poetry of Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats (handout)
*Shelley, Frankenstein

Archetypes (6 wks.)

introduction to Freud and Jung
Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm
Rites of Passage

short stories depicting rites of passage
poetry depicting archetypal imagery
*Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Freedom vs. Determinism (5 wks.)

Sophocles, Antigone (handout)
Rand, Anthem (handout)
Elements of propaganda and logical fallacies
Groups create their own products and commercials

*Huxley, Brave New World
film: Gattaca
Advertising and television commercials

The Motion Picture (4 wks.)

introduction to film
Hitchcock, Psycho
Forman, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Wachowski, The Matrix
Ford, The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance
Essays on Psycho and The Matrix