

English 12 Course Syllabus

North Salem H.S.

Course Description:

This course focuses on "point of view" and includes an extensive unit on the short story. Contemporary novels and plays are analyzed and short literature-based research tasks are assigned to review research skills prior to college and the work world. Oral presentation skills using A-V aids are a critical component of the year culminating in the Senior Exhibition at the end of the year when all seniors present their research project to a panel of community members/faculty.

Reading Assignments

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned texts prepared to discuss the themes. While reading, students should annotate text using post-it notes. (If students purchase their own copy of the books, they can write directly in the text.) Class discussions will be another opportunity to annotate the text. All the major works read are classic works that students might wish to read or reference while attending college. The course will focus on the use of reading strategies that promote a substantiated interpretation of author's purpose as facilitated by author technique. The readings will also serve as models for students to emulate. We will analyze how authors effectively use sentence structure to enhance meaning, vary sentence beginnings to guide the reader, use strong verbs to add power to the writing and manipulate punctuation to control flow.

Writing Assignments:

Analysis short stories, novels and plays in writing will generally take three forms: (1) in-class essays that require students to either read and interpret a short piece of literature and construct a response – or interpret a longer work through the lens of a specific prompt, (2) typed revisions of in-class writing assignments, (3) formal MLA research papers that incorporate legitimate literary criticism to support a student generated thesis based interpretation of literary works. Writing assignments are designed to foster the skills needed to be a successful college-level writer and thinker.

A Final Note:

Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions. The class discussions are far more meaningful when students actively participate in the process.

Grading:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Writing: assignments include in-class essays and formal research papers. (Must follow tenets of formal, standard English – revision of initial draft is expected.)	40%
Test Analysis/Test Debate: these examination follow the three part process I created to support conceptual understanding of the textual themes, critical thinking skills and metacognition. The process uses sophisticated multiple-choice questions patterned after question used to assess students on the AP exam.	40%
Homework / Classwork: these shorter reflective assignments require students to draw conclusions, weigh and comment on the assertions of their classmates, and make connections between themes studied and the outside world.	20%

* Senior Exhibition at the end of the year, when all seniors present their research project to a panel of community members/faculty, will serve as the final exam grade for the course.