

9th Grade Pre-AP English A/B

Mr. Barnes

Rm. 531

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Course Overview:

The 9th grade curriculum aligns the new Common Core State Standards for students in grades 9-10. In addition, this course acts as a precursor for AP English. This course will focus heavily on skills needed to analyze and write about prose and poetry. It will include novel and poetry units, as well as drama and possibly a unit on mythology. Although this is a literature class, we will also dedicate class time to writing instruction and teaching the fundamentals of composition, specifically literary analysis pieces. Students will understand the writing process, participate in a Writer's Workshop, and will thoughtfully craft pieces while making accommodations based on various rhetorical situations.

This course is designed to prepare students for success in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. In this course we will focus on: building close-reading skills; using reading and processing strategies to think through poetry and prose; and, developing skills for composing literary analysis. Some of the learning objectives met in this course include:

- Students will learn how to fully analyze a text using strategies such as: dialectical journaling and annotating in order to perform a close reading of the text.
- Students will learn how to write critically and analytically about prose and poetry, using textual evidence to support their claims and making appropriate choices based on rhetorical situation.
- Students will practice how to discuss literature in thoughtful and meaningful ways using Socratic methods of inquiry, formulating discussion questions, and responding to Essential Questions.
- Students will participate in comprehensive discussions of literature referring to literary devices, terms, and techniques and on an author's craft, purpose, agenda, or intent.
- Students will appropriately defend ideas and statements using text-based evidence, citations, or connections when necessary.

Entering the classroom:

1. Have materials *every* day. Be responsible enough to come to class prepared. You are required to have a 3-subject notebook designated specifically for this class. A pen or pencil will be needed daily. No markers will be used for any writing assignments or notes. Repeated entries into the classroom without proper materials can and will result in a referral.

2. Once the tardy bell finishes ringing, you should be moving toward your seat. If you are not in your seat in a timely manner, it will be interpreted as defiance, and you will be written up. Once in your seat you should get your notebook out immediately. Do not wait for a "Get out your notebook!" command.

3. Once seated, begin the "Bell Ringer" at once. "Bell Ringers" will be used as an anticipatory set, review, ACT practice, journal entry, etc. Be responsible and ready!!

Tardiness:

1. If you are not in the room when the tardy bell finishes, you are *tardy*!

2. You have **ONE** free tardy per semester for **ALL** classes. A second tardy in any form will result in a detention.

Assignments:

1. If you are absent, see me for all paperwork. You may check with a partner or my website for assignments.
2. Every unexcused absence is a zero for that day.
3. Late work will be deducted 10% per day late (basically one letter-grade per day).
4. Participation grades will be given out weekly: ten points per day. I expect you to be a positive member of this class. I value your ideas and expect you to share them. Unexcused absences will be a zero for the day. Excused absences will not count against you. To gain points, you simply must be engaged for that day. Participation doesn't just mean vocally sharing thoughts or ideas. You can have a great impact on the class without ever verbally sharing with the entire class.

Attention Signal:

In order to speed up the process of getting the room quiet, my attention signal will be a verbal “HIGH FIVE” and I will raise my hand. When you hear me and/or see my raised hand, you are to immediately end all conversations and raise your hand as well. We will be silent in no less than five seconds.

Hall Passes:

1. You *must* have a completed agenda before leaving the classroom. Step one: ask permission
Step two: fill out agenda
Step three: have me sign it
Step four: leave

Expectations:

1. Have FUN.
2. Have something to read at all times—for school or pleasure
3. Student growth.
4. Student accountability
5. Complete assignments
6. Deeper comprehension of texts
7. Develop/enhance literary analysis skills
8. Be positive
9. No disruptive behavior
10. Have FUN

Quiz/Test Retakes:

1. You may retake any quiz or test one time, but that re-take must be during ESS or CCR (never during regular instructional time).

Class Rules:

1. Have materials daily
4. Behave responsibly

2. Respect people and property
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself

5. Leave nothing behind
6. Silence during ALL announcements

Requirements:

1. Close Reading
2. Annotation Skills
3. Short Story Unit
--the elements of fiction will be emphasized
4. Poetry unit
--sound devices
--critical and analytical thinking
--paraphrasing, etc.
5. *Romeo and Juliet*
6. *Night*
7. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
8. *The Odyssey*
9. Mastery of Literary Elements/Vocabulary
10. Literary Analysis Essay(s)/On Demand Essay
11. Personal Essay
12. Argument Essay

Contact Information:

My planning period is fifth period. Parents/Guardians, please feel free to call any time (839-5118 ext. 2531).

My email address is l.barnes@anderson.kyschools.us.

This is the easiest and most convenient way for you to keep in touch with me about the progress of your son or daughter. For more information, please visit my teacher website:

- A. Go to teacher website: <http://www.anderson.kyschools.us/teachers.aspx>
- B. Click on LW Barnes

This is a new tool for all teachers in the district, so please be patient.

In order to keep up to date with your child's progress, please sign up for the Infinite Campus portal:
<https://infinitecampus.anderson.kyschools.us/campus/portal/anderson.jsp>.

I will be using *Remind* to send text reminders. Students and parents can join my class by texting
For 1st period--text @1dc09 to 81010
For 4th period--text @8dfdd to 81010