

Syllabus

Contents

Course Materials
Assignments
Exams
Grading

What You Should Already Know

There are no prerequisites to take this course; however, you should have completed tenth-grade English. You should be able to use a word processing program to format your papers when you type (font, margins, line spacing, etc.), as you will have specific requirements on how to submit written assignments. You should already know how to edit and proofread your essays, and you should understand that I expect all the final drafts you submit to be proofread and edited. Please note that many of the assignments in the course will require the submission of a rough draft (with corrections highlighted/clearly marked).

Course Learning Outcomes

In this course, you will learn to do the following:

- Analyze texts to determine meaning and draw conclusions.
- Bridge historical contexts to new literary styles, genres, and author backgrounds.
- Develop critical thinking skills and demonstrate thoughtful analysis in writing.
- Prepare for college entrance exams by learning key vocabulary words and grammar concepts.

These objectives are based on nationally required core standards and are constructed to help you grow as a writer and reader.

Course Materials

You will need the content in this course, and access to a computer and a printer. You are also required to have access to the following works of literature:

- *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller (Any version containing the introduction by Christopher Bigsby is recommended, but it's not necessary to buy a new book if you already own another version.)
- *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare (You may use any version as long as it is complete and unabridged.)
- *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- You will also need to watch a live or recorded version of *Macbeth*. A live production of the play is preferred, but you may watch a recorded version (movie) instead. Many versions are available, and several are available online. Once again, you must choose a complete, unabridged version of the play; however, because of the content of the play, I would advise you to choose the version you watch wisely. A live production of the play should probably be fine; however, recent film versions may contain very mature content. Please be aware of ratings and content and select carefully the version you watch.
- A headset/speakers and microphone are necessary to conduct required speaking appointments; a webcam is preferred but not required. For optimal connection speeds during speaking appointments, it is recommended that you use a hard-wired, high-speed internet connection during the appointment.

Assignments

- Most of the lessons in the course are followed by a self-check quiz. These computer-graded quizzes do not count toward your grade but will check your understanding and prepare you for other assignments and tests.
- Every unit in the course is followed by a unit quiz. These computer-graded assignments count toward your grade and are one of the best ways you have to prepare for the final exam.
- Throughout the course, you will receive various assignments which you will complete on paper or on the computer. It is your responsibility to make sure you have completed and attached everything associated with an assignment before submitting it as a .doc or .pdf file.

Exams

The final exam consists of multiple choice and matching questions. It is closed book and closed notes.

Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on these assignments and exams.

Assignment	Points
Assignments (60% of final grade)	
Reading and Annotation Assignment	25
Introduction Assignment and Analysis of Personal Strengths, Weaknesses, and Fears	100
Short Research Essay Rough Draft	20
Short Research Essay Final	60
Rhetorical Analysis Essay	60
Compare/Contrast Essay	85
Discussion Board Posts	50
Theatrical Production Analysis	80
Argumentative Essay — Fate vs. Free Will Rough Draft	25
Argumentative Essay — Fate vs. Free Will Final	80
Sentences Assignment	32
Rhetorical Analysis Reading of the Declaration of Independence	20
Rhetorical Analysis Reading of “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?”	20
Argumentative Essay — American Dream	80
Quizzes and Exams (40% of final grade)	

Unit Quizzes (4)	50
Midcourse Review	50
Final Exam	200

Grade Scale

Your letter grade is calculated according to these percentages.

A	100–93
A–	92–90
B+	89–87
B	86–83
B–	82–80
C+	79–77
C	76–73
C–	72–70
D+	69–67
D	66–63
D–	62–60
E (fail)	59–0