

## College English B Syllabus

### Course Objectives:

1. To help students write clear, focused, coherent and effective expository essays.
2. To master writing techniques by practicing the stages of the writing process.
3. To develop skills in using the library and other resources, incorporating borrowed materials into personal work and providing documentation from sources cited using MLA or APA format.
4. To review grammar rules as they apply to the writing process, observing how modern grammatical structure works in real writing.
5. To help students improve their communication skills, both written and oral.
6. To help students react critically to classical and contemporary literature.
7. To encourage students' interests in community involvement and current social issues.

### Course Requirements:

1. **No late assignments will be accepted for points. No assignments will be accepted for credit on the day of the final exam.**
2. Reading
  - a. Shakespeare's *Othello*
  - b. Textbooks: In addition to the novels, two textbooks will be used.
    - (1) *The Bedford Reader 13<sup>th</sup> Edition* – Kenney, Kennedy, Aaron & Repetto
    - (2) *Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* -- Robert DiYanni
3. Writing
  - a. Essays: There will be two types of essays completed this trimester
    - (1) Character Analysis
    - (2) Comparison
  - b. Informal writing: Students will also encounter the following forms of informal writing; most types of informal writing are ungraded but are used for peer evaluations and work with the instructor.
    - (1) Free writing
    - (2) Journal writing
    - (3) Rough drafts
4. Speaking
  - a. Class discussion: these will include, but are not limited to, discussion about the novels, literary theories and interpretations, current world applications, the writing process, the research process, and students' personal development of writing skills.
  - b. Presentation of research project
5. Research Project
  - a. Students will conduct research on a debate topic.
  - b. Students will create a synthesis report prompt and provide sources for their selected topic. They will write an annotated bibliography identifying and evaluating the sources.
  - c. Students will write an outline and multiple drafts of a synthesis essay which will include properly formatted citations.
  - d. Students will present their reports in class.
8. Students must attend at least 92% of all class days to receive credit for the class.
9. Students must complete all major projects in order to receive credit for the class.

### Classroom Rules:

1. Respect others and their property.
2. Keep all comments positive within the classroom. This means comments regarding people, ideas, materials, assignments, EVERYTHING!
3. Time given in class for work must be used to complete English work; it may not be used for other homework until the English assignment is completed.
4. NO CANDY, SUCKERS, BEVERAGES OR FOOD IN CLASSROOM! It will be confiscated and thrown out.
5. Chromebooks will be used frequently. You are responsible for following the guidelines in the Chromebook handbook, and Hapara will be used to monitor their use during class.

**Grading Policy:**

1. All grading is done on a point system. Points are earned from the various activities that students complete, and the marking period grade will be based on the points they earn out of the total number of points possible.
2. Because College English reflects a college-style grading system, points will **accumulate** as the trimester progresses, with one trimester grade being given at the end of the course. The grades will be based upon final essays, tests, the senior project and the final exam, rather than on numerous, small homework assignments.
3. Rough drafts, in-class assignments and other shorter activities will usually be done on a credit/no credit system. They are important as preparation and skill-building activities, but are usually seen as "practice" for the larger assignments listed above.
4. The final grade will be distributed according to the following weights:
  - a. research project.....30%
  - b. final essays.....30%
  - c. tests.....20%
  - d. final exam.....10%
  - e. participation.....10%
5. Grades will be based on the following percentages:

100 – 94.....	A	82 – 80.....	B	69 – 67.....	D+
93 – 90.....	A-	79 – 77.....	C+	66 – 63.....	D
89 – 87.....	B+	76 – 73.....	C	62 – 60.....	D-
86 – 83.....	B	72 – 70.....	C-	59 – 0.....	F

**Contacting the Instructor:**

1. Voice mail: (231) 861-4452 ext. 4111
2. E-mail: glerjs@hs.shelby.k12.mi.us
  - I will respond to your message within 48 hours, so, please, do NOT wait until the last minute to ask a question. The goal of this class, however, is to teach you to become an independent learner, so "hand-holding" will be kept to a minimum.
  - I do not respond to e-mails between 7pm and 7am. That time is reserved for my family.
  - Finally, if additional help is needed, you may request an appointment during TAG or during my office hours. office hours, please schedule an appointment at least 24 hours in advance.
3. Office Hours: 2<sup>nd</sup> Block

## **Classroom Policies**

### Class forms

1. All parent contracts and novel/movie forms must be signed and returned by Friday.

### Hall Passes

2. Only three hall passes for the trimester are permitted. A hall pass is when a student leaves the classroom to go to the restroom, get a drink, or go to their locker.
3. Hall passes are for 3 minutes only.
4. If a student uses more than 3 hall passes, each subsequent pass will result in a 30-minute detention that must be served within 48 hours.

### Homework

5. Unless otherwise specified, all homework is due at the beginning of the class.
6. All homework must be neat and properly labeled. If it is illegible it will be returned and will be considered a late paper. If it is from a spiral notebook, edges must be trimmed.
7. Final drafts must be typed in MLA or APA format, as indicated by the instructor.
8. Unless specifically stated, all homework is to be done ALONE, not with other students. It is important for the instructor to understand each student's level of comprehension, and only by seeing the errors students make individually is it possible to assess their understanding and to then present class or individual instruction to correct the problems.
9. Most homework is done on a credit/no credit basis. The purpose of homework is to practice skills, and it is expected that mistakes will be made as a student is gaining experience and knowledge. As a result, no late homework will be accepted for points.

### Essay Re-Writes

10. A student earning an 85% or lower on an essay may rewrite the essay within two weeks of receiving it back or before the next final draft essay is due, whichever is first.
11. In order to be eligible to rewrite an essay, students must have completed both the rough draft and final draft, and they must attend an individual conference with the instructor.
12. Conferences may only be scheduled before school, after school or during TAG. The student will need to schedule the time with the teacher.
13. The senior project may NOT be rewritten.

### Computer Use

14. Students are only to use computers at designated times for designated assignments.
15. At no time are students permitted to alter desktop settings, download or play games or music, or access blocked sites such as Facebook, MySpace, etc.
16. Student computer use will be monitored using School Vue technology. If any SHS SUN agreement policy is violated, the student's computer will be shut down and the student will be written up.
17. E-mail will be used only at specified times to either exchange files for group work or to submit work to the instructor. At all other times, no e-mail is permitted in class.
18. If an assignment is given that requires Internet access and the student does not have access at home, arrangements can be made with the instructor for extra computer use time before or after school or during TAG.

I have read the above policies and understand them. If I have questions, I will contact Mrs. Glerum at the high school.

## Parent/Guardian Contract

College English is a college preparatory course. As such, discussions of the literature, writing assignments and the literary themes will at times focus on content for the mature student. Alternative novels are available upon request, although the discussions and assignments will be the same for all students. The class moves at a brisk pace, but due dates are posted on a class calendar available to all students through their school e-mail account. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates and be prepared with assignments, just as they will need to do when they attend a college or university.

Attached are two forms: 1) a list of classroom policies along with the responsibilities of the student and the MLA requirements, and 2) a list of the possible movies that may be shown during this trimester and the novels that will be read. Please read through both forms carefully with your student.

Please sign below indicating you have reviewed the syllabus and the attached forms. If an alternate novel is needed or if a movie is not to be watched, please indicate the items below so that arrangements can be made in advance. Return this contract along with the novel/movie form to the instructor by Friday.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

To better plan resources for students, please check the following boxes if they apply to your student:

- A computer is not available at home
- A computer is available at home, but an Internet connection is NOT available.

Alternate novel(s) needed for

- Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- The Poisonwood Bible*

Movie(s) not permitted:

- Heart of Darkness*
- The Color Purple*
- Death of a Salesman*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Student Responsibilities**

- To come to class with textbooks, notebook and writing materials
- To read each assignment completely before discussion time in class
- To come to class with either a sense of the reading's importance or specific questions about the reading
- To actively participate as an individual or in groups
- To hand in all assignments on time and to the best of their abilities
- To take responsibility for your actions
- To find out about missed homework due to an absence. This should be dealt with **outside** of class time, including before or after school or during the teacher's planning hour.
- To regard this class as a college level course and to set high personal expectations and goals for your performance in this class.

## **Teacher Responsibilities**

- To come to class with textbooks and supplemental materials
- To read each assignment completely before discussion time in class
- To bring additional information and an enthusiasm for the subject to class discussions
- To grade all papers in a timely manner
- To communicate clearly expectations for all assignments
- To provide aids, manuals, etc. for student use and to instruct in the use of such manuals.
- To maintain high expectations for all students and encourage them to meet those expectations
- To encourage students to become self-directed learners who take responsibility for their own education

## **Assignment Policy**

- **NO late work will be accepted!! Any papers turned in late will receive a zero.**
- Final drafts of essays or major projects are due at 3:00 p.m. on the due date. Any assignments turned in after 3:00 will be considered late.
- If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, you are expected to submit the assignment on the first day that you return to school. The assignment is due when you arrive at class, NOT at 3:00 on the day you return.
- If you are absent for PART of the day that an assignment is due but you are still in the building that day, you are expected to hand in that assignment by 3:00 p.m. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the assignment.
- Sloppy work is unacceptable. The instructor reserves the right to refuse work that is inferior and/or sloppy. You will have one day to resubmit the assignment for credit but will receive zero points, as it will be considered a late paper.
- Spelling errors are unacceptable with today's technology. You are permitted one spelling error per page; after that, spelling errors will affect your overall grade.
- **ALL essays and papers** given as extended assignments are expected to be **typed** and must follow proper **MLA format**. (See sample page) Students will also complete one essay in APA format to give them experience with a different format that is frequently used in colleges and universities.
- For other questions regarding the policies of the English Department, please refer to the department handbook.

LIMITED classroom copies of *A Guide to MLA Documentation* (Trimmer) will be available for your use. This is a brief guide that will help you master MLA format. These guides are available at Barnes and Nobles Booksellers and Amazon.com for \$7.95 (plus S/H). If you would like to buy your own copy, we can order personal copies (4 or more) and both sites will waive S/H charges.

Your Name

Teacher's Name

Class Name

Day Month (spelled out) year

Title

All documents in MLA format are double-spaced, including outlines and works cited. They will also use one-inch margins. On the first page, a name block will appear in the top, left-hand corner, like you see above. It is NOT a header, and it is only on the first page. However, each page will also include a header. The header will appear in the top right hand corner, one-half inch down; in it your last name and the page number will appear. There should be a space between your last name and the page number.

Please notice, there are NO extra spaces between the name block and the title, nor between the title and the first paragraph of text. In addition, there are no extra spaces between paragraphs. Finally, no "pg." is necessary before the page number that is used in the header. Examples of outlines and works cited pages will be provided when research papers are written.

Finally, business letters that are written will follow strict block style format. This includes sender's address, date, receiver's name and address, greetings, text and closing which are all left aligned. Paragraphs in business letters will be single spaced, with a double space between paragraphs. No indents will be used unless a numbered list is given. Again, examples will be provided when letters for projects are written.

If you have questions about MLA format or business letter format, please refer to the manuals available on the shelves or the MLA website provided in class. If those references fail to answer your questions, please contact the instructor.

## Novels and Possible Movies

### Novels

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

"One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published -- perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature."

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

"Kingsolver is known as a writer of the American Southwest, so it may come as a surprise to find that her most significant book to date, an extraordinarily dramatic and forthright novel of family, faith, and fate, is set in Africa...The Congo is the setting for this vivid chronicle of one missionary family's disastrous sojourn. The year is 1959; the country is fighting for independence from Belgium, and Nathan Price has uprooted his wife and their four daughters from their Georgia home and delivered them to the tiny village of Kilanga without the full blessing of his church, or, indeed, of the villagers... Kingsolver has her heroines take turns narrating, and each voice conveys a wholly evolved and expressive consciousness....Suffering is the order of the day as Kilanga is assailed by plagues of biblical intensity, and the battle against colonial tyranny surges to a shattering crescendo. No facet of civilization or the human spirit goes unexplored in this measureless saga of hubris and deliverance."

### Movies

*Heart of Darkness* (1993) with Tim Robbins and John Malkovich; Rated for TV.

"Marlow is an ambitious and adventurous sailor who is employed by an English trading company and sent to an African colony. There he travels up the river, visiting the trading stations who barter for ivory with the natives. On his journey he is told about a man named Kurtz whose station is the one furthest up the river, deep in the African jungle. Some talk of him in awe, others in admiration, but they all seem to fear him. As Marlow gets closer and closer to Kurtz he understands that the man has gone insane and is now doing the most horrible and blasphemous deeds. Based on Joseph Conrad's classic novel about greed and insanity."

*The Color Purple* (1997) with Whoopi Goldberg and Danny Glover; Rated PG-13.

"Based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Color Purple* is a richly-textured, powerful film set in America's rural south. Whoopi Goldberg, winner of the Best Actress Golden Globe Award and an Oscar nomination, makes a triumphant screen debut as the radiant, indomitable Celie, the story's central character. Her impressive portrayal is complimented by a distinguished cast that includes Danny Glover, Oprah Winfrey, Margaret Avery, Adolph Caesar, Rae Dawn Chong and Akosua Busia. *The Color Purple* marks a new, more mature color in Spielberg's artistic palette. It is an exquisitely crafted, landmark film that will be treasured and talked about for years to come."



*Death of a Salesman* (1966) with Lee Cobb; not rated.

“ ‘Attention must be paid’ to this abbreviated but superb 1966 television adaptation by Arthur Miller of his Pulitzer Prize-winning modern tragedy, starring the incomparable Lee J. Cobb and Mildred Dunnock recreating their original Broadway roles as the Lomans. In a career-defining performance, Cobb portrays the suffering Willy Loman--the middle-aged man at the end of his emotional rope--with Dunnock equally impressive as his patient wife, Linda. George Segal and James Farentino play their disillusioned sons, Biff and Happy. Shattering and unforgettable, this landmark television production has been digitally remastered and will endure for all generations to come.”

All product descriptions quoted above are taken from Amazon.com.