

BRITISH LITERATURE

Course Syllabus

"Excellence encourages one about life generally; it shows the spiritual wealth of the world."

George Eliot

"We are the second opinion that changes the lie. That is the reason all politicians fear the artists and people of the mind."

George Bernard Shaw

I. BRIT. LIT.:

Communication and collaboration are vital skills you will enhance as we study the works of British authors selected for their considerable influence on 21st century learners and their ability to startle and compel contemporary readers. This course explores readings from major poets, essayists, dramatists and novelists, beginning in the Anglo-Saxon period and continuing through the Modern Age. Reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing skills are stressed as students respond to literature through composition work, research, essays, criticism, analysis and argumentation. We will consider the significance of these works in their original contexts, and their relevance to us in the present.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- A. Students identify major authors, recurring themes, dominant genres, and stylistic characteristics of British literature, while exploring the social, political, and aesthetic concerns and values reflected in these works.
- B. Cultural literacy develops as we analyze the vicissitudes in narrative techniques, poetic devices, and conventions of written language throughout the centuries, encountering the inspiration for contemporary works.
- C. Scholars develop essays, compositions, and original literature while discovering and analyzing the themes and characteristics of significant, literary masterpieces.
- D. You will become more self-aware of your own speech patterns, strengths, and weaknesses, to ensure continued growth as an effective communicator while we explore the relationships between language and literature.

III. REQUIREMENTS:

A. Course Materials-

The text, *Adventures in English Literature*, a binder/folder for hand-outs and notes, and a writing implement will be required. Your folder will contain all in-class assignments, research, handouts, as well as all completed assignments.

B. Outside Research/Reading Sources-

Assignments, writing and project topics will vary, but research and outside reading texts will be required. Suggestions will be made in class, and final choices must receive the approval of the instructor.

IV. GRADING & EVALUATION:

A. Grading Policy-

- A = Prompt completion of every assignment, consistent improvement and effort in all areas, initiative and concern for quality of work above reproach at all times. Your participation in class is of vital importance as a means of evaluating your progress.
- B = No more than one zero or incomplete assignment, directions and corrections used and improvements made, consistent effort and initiative above normal.
- C = Less than three incompletes, follows directions, effort at normal level, initiative and concern below expectations.
- D = Three or more unacceptable projects, doesn't take direction, inconsistent effort, excessive tardies or absences.
- E = Work and effort at an unacceptable level.

Significant, personalized feedback is conveyed on a regular basis through individual conferencing, written observations, coordinated assessments and classroom displays. Grades will be available and updated at approximately three week intervals on Pinnacle. When an assignment is given, it takes about a week to ensure that everyone has taken, re-worked or made up the task, and from one to five days to accurately reflect and assess it. Only then will I update your effort from the past few weeks. This ensures that your status is indicative of your actual progress - not just a reflection of a single outstanding project or a distressing test. Please see me with questions or concern.

*** Each one of you can earn an "A" if you are willing to put forth the effort.

B. Make-up/Late work-

When a presentation, project, test, etc. is missed due to an EXCUSED absence, you have one day for each day absent to make up the work. If you fail to take the initiative for make-ups or fail to turn in an assignment, it receives a "0". Remember, it is your responsibility to make arrangements for all make-up work. **Reminder – absences do not change long-term assignment deadlines!**

An UN-EXCUSED absence means and automatic "E". Unexcused absences and tardies, both forms of non-participation, will adversely affect your success in this course. You generally receive 5 points per day for in class work and productive class participation. Tardies will be dealt with by losing class pts.; the later you are, the more you lose. Be here!

I DO NOT EXCEPT LATE WORK...you snooze, you lose! For extenuating circumstances (accepting a Nobel Prize, unexpected time travel), see me. For printer breakdowns, late games, my dog ate it, etc. PLAN AHEAD!

C. Midterm/Final Exam - You must receive passing grades to pass the course. This counts as 20% of your final grade.

D. Approximation of points received for individual assignments -

Attendance/Participation	1 – 5 (negative potential)
Classroom events/Quizzes	5 - 10
Minor Written Assignments/Presentations/Assessments	10 - 25
Major Papers/Projects/Tests	25 - 60

100-99% = A+
98-93 = A
92-90 = A-

89-88 = B+
87-83 = B
82-80 = B-

79-78 = C+
77-73 = C
72-70 = C-

69-68 = D+
67-63 = D
62-60 = D-

59 and below = E

***As with any course, it is your responsibility to save all assignments, papers, projects etc., in order to avoid any grade discrepancy disputes later in the term. Keep everything!

V. CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

- * A Positive Attitude and Productive Participation are essential.
- * Approx. ½ - 2 hours of homework each week; plan on it.
- * *Deserve respect; expect respect.*
- * Bring all necessary supplies, attend regularly, punctually, and behave responsibly.
- * **NO gum, unauthorized electronic use, food, beverages, vulgarity, insubordination, harassment, etc. allowed in class. Infractions will negatively impact your grade.**
- * One trip out of class per semester (restroom, drink, locker, etc.), is available; use it judiciously. If you forget materials, fail to plan ahead, etc., it will affect your grade - see that it doesn't.
- * Do not pack up or get up until the bell; it does not dismiss you, I do.
- * **Plagiarism is the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another and representing it as original.** Research wisely, paraphrase selectively, and attribute accurately; always cite your source. Start early; make it personal; do your own work!

VI. KEEPING IN TOUCH:

I will be available to help with class work Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 7:15 – 7:50 a.m. or after school by appt.; my room # is 401 and my email is dunhamm@gpschools.org, which is the best way to reach me. Please be concerned about your success in this course now. Do not wait until the end of the quarter, ask for help when you get stressed, behind or befuddled. I am not that scary. Please review the information in this syllabus with your parents.

Welcome - now let's have a great year!