

## English 7/8 Syllabus

Mr. Lorenzo, B33

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### Course Overview:

Students in English 7/8, in conjunction with their Advanced Placement classmates, will read and carefully analyze British literature written in a variety of time periods, from the 10th century through the Victorian era. This course will provide students with the intellectual challenges and workload consistent with a typical level 200 undergraduate English Literature class at any college or university. At the culmination of the course, the students **will** be adequately prepared for college level literature courses.

### The Work:

In lieu of research papers, students in English 7/8 will work on study guides for each unit. A study guide consists of several short answer questions, graphic organizers, and other activities that will assess your comprehension of the literature. Study guides are broken up into sections, are graded individually, and will be done in class. Study guides do not leave the room, that's how they get lost. Time will be dedicated in class to work on each individual section.

At the end of each unit there will be a creative project as well. Each project can be done in groups or individually. They will be creative in nature and are meant to be a fun way to end a unit.

### Reading Assignments:

This course includes an intensive study of rich and representative works. The works selected require a careful, deliberative reading that yields multiple meanings. This is your senior year English class, expectations are appropriately high, and the reading workload is challenging. Students are expected to come to class with the works read and annotated. Because of the length of some pieces, careful planning and time management is essential to success in the class. Careful reading leads to in-class discussion, which reveals a student's in-depth understanding and evaluation of the piece and contributes towards the strengthening of his/her own composition ability.

## Primary Course Literature:

<i>(September / October) Beowulf</i>	Anonymous
<i>The Canterbury Tales (November/December)</i>	Geoffrey Chaucer
<i>Hamlet (January/February)</i>	William Shakespeare
<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (March/April)</i>	Lewis Carroll
Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There (April/May)	Lewis Carroll

## English 7/8 Grading Policies and Course Categories

You are seniors, you are almost done, but I expect the same behavior and diligence in our work as any other grade, at any other age.

**Study Guides** - There will be a comprehensive Study Guide, filled with questions and exercises to be done along with each novel and play we read this year. It is my expectation that you will be completing these exercises as you read, so the workload won't be too overbearing. The packet will be due one week after the successful completion of a work of literature. **45% of your grade.**

**Projects** – Yes, I get it, you're 17, maybe even 18, and you're too old for colorful projects. You are never too old for colorful projects. Individual rubrics will be distributed for any project that is assigned. **20 % of your grade.**

**Class participation/ Behavior** – You are a senior in High School, please act like one. I expect you all to set an example for our underclassmen, all the way down to our kindergarteners, in the classroom, in the hallways, in the cafeteria; believe it or not, they look up to you, both literally and figuratively. **An easy 15% of your grade.**

**Attendance / Lateness**– You are expected to attend class at your scheduled time and stay until you are dismissed. Obviously, you will find it difficult to be successful in the class if you are rarely present. To that end, each semester you will earn an “Attendance Grade”, this number is merely the actual percentage of your presence in class, less 1 point from that overall number for

every two days that you are late. If the absence is excused or medically necessary, proper documentation must be presented the next time I see you. **20 % of your grade**

## English 7/8

### Summer Reading Assignment (2021)

*Instructions* – Please read one of the following works of literature over the summer. These works are difficult and are an accurate representation of the caliber of literature you will be expected to read as a senior in High School. Please choose **ONE**:

Brave New World – by Aldous Huxley

or

Lord of the Flies - by William Golding

Please purchase a copy of one of these books. You must annotate and take notes in the margins of the novel.

Your only task over the summer will be to read and annotate the book. In September, there will be an in-class quiz that will be virtually impossible to score well on if you have not prepared yourself by reading. The annotating focus junior year was more on the diction and syntax an author incorporates into their writing. While incredibly important, your annotating task over the summer and into senior year will focus on literary analysis and interpretation. Consider these questions when annotating.

What might this particular event mean?

What is that symbolic of?

What theme is the author attempting to incorporate in the novel or play?

Why does the author use a simile here? Or a metaphor there?

What does this difficult vocabulary word mean?

What's the setting, why might it be an important factor for the novel as a whole?

What's the overall tone of the novel?