



Course Summary: English I Pre-Advanced Placement 2017-2018

Conference Period:

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Content:

English I Pre-AP is the advanced study of world literature; it also includes the study of writing and language structure. This course initiates the preparation for the College Board Advancement Placement English exams at the high school level. Thus, at the end of this course, each student will be prepared with knowledge and skills established by the College Board (creators of SAT and AP exams) that are essential to becoming empowered, effective thinkers and communicators in our society.

As English I Students, you are only two years away from taking an AP Exam, a college level test that results in *free* college credit if you earn a qualifying score. This can be both frightening and exciting because the level at which you should be functioning this year must be equivalent to being two years away from college. For this reason, standards will be high. The development of critical thinking skills, analysis of literature, vocabulary, and writing will be vital in receiving college credit through the AP Exam. This will take hard work, dedication, and tenacity for learning, but I have all the faith in the world that you are willing to work hard to succeed. Together, we'll make a great team!

Objective:

The objectives of this course include the development of:
powerfully effective oral and written communication skills;
higher order thinking skills to analyze world literature for author's intent, purpose, methodology, and craft;
independent/self-directed learning skills that will cultivate critical and creative thinking;
and collaborative learning skills that will allow student-led teaching and learning opportunities.
***Students will be exposed to varied genres of literature in order to broaden their understanding and appreciation of literature.

Classroom Behavior:

Please be prepared for learning every single day in English I—there is no such thing as a “day off” from being a student. Respect for teacher, self, and peers is never optional-- it is a consistent expectation. Of course, we also abide by RSA’s student behavior guidelines listed here:

1. Be punctual.
2. Be polite.
3. Be productive.
4. Be prepared.
5. Be positive.

Supplies:

1. Pens or pencils
2. Paper (loose leaf notebook)
3. Novels (Books will be obtained throughout the year, and I will inform you of when it’s time to purchase and/ or check out from the library our required readings.)
4. 2 100-page composition books
5. On occasion, you must be able to check out a laptop from the RSA Library if you do not have a computer at home.

Grading Procedure:

Classwork/Homework/ Participation—35%

Quizzes/ AR—30%

Projects, major compositions, and all tests (including nine weeks exam)—35%

****Semester average** is calculated by averaging the two quarterly grades worth 75%; semester exam will make up the remaining 25% of the semester average.

Formative Assessments:

Frequently during the year, formative assessments will be given in the form of written or oral quizzes, homework, readings, student writing, tests, and discussions. Feedback will be given, but no grade will be assigned. These assignments provide feedback to the teacher and individual student to assess current knowledge base, need for growth/ supplemental instruction, or mastery of upcoming concepts and need for student enrichment opportunities. In short, formative assessments help individualize/ maximize student learning.

Blackboard:

This course requires frequent use of Blackboard, an online learning system. You will be given a user name and password and will be expected to log into the system throughout the year. On occasion, assignments will be submitted electronically in this course; this will be done through Blackboard. Further information will be given to you during the first two weeks of school.

AR Tests:

Students are required to read novels within their reading range and test on them using the Accelerated Reading program in the library. Failure to complete the required reading assignments will result in appropriate intervention and/ or failing grades.

Deadlines and the point value grade-equivalent scale will be distributed on the 1st day of school. AR reading deadlines end the day before end of grading periods. AR tests, quizzes and point accumulations are counted as quiz grades, test grades and daily work grades at your teacher's discretion.

Late Work Policy:

All work is to be turned in on time. In the event of a documented emergency/ absence, late work will be accepted. It is the student who is responsible for turning in his/ her assignments at the scheduled time and date OR for making alternate arrangements with the teacher in the event of emergency/ absence. If there are extenuating circumstances, the teacher may—at his/ her discretion—allow a student to turn in “late work” However, the highest score a student can earn on late work is a grade of 70%. If a student chronically attempts to turn in late work, the teacher will, of course, make the decision that late work will no longer be permitted, and a parent conference will be called to make parents/ guardians aware of the teacher's concerns.

Absences:

When absent, provisions for make-up work will be arranged during tutorial period and must be completed within two days of the student's return to campus (excluding long term illness). Please do not attempt to inquire about or clarify missed work during class time. Reference the **Assignment Log** upon your return to class, and pick up any missed work, handouts, etc. from the daily work folders hanging by the Assignment Log.

Tardies:

Students are required to be in their seats by the time the tardy bell rings. If a student is tardy, he/she needs to report to the automated tardy station at the front office window where he/she will receive a tardy-admit slip. A student will report to lunch detention on the 3rd tardy (listed on the tardy slip), and further consequences will result for students who are chronically tardy for class.

Retesting:

Retesting is a privilege that is extended to a student who has failed a major exam/assessment. Additional assigned material may be a prerequisite to taking a retest, and the teacher determines the time and date of all retesting. Retests are usually offered after school during tutorial sessions; they are not offered during class time in order to ensure that students do not fall further behind with course pacing.

***Pop-quizzes, quizzes, and final exams may not be retaken.

*** A maximum grade of 70% may be obtained on all exam retests.

Special Note Regarding Hand-Held Device Usage:

1. Teacher's expectation: hand-held devices will ONLY be used when and if teacher allows.
2. Inappropriate use of hand-held devices will result in disciplinary action, to include confiscation of device.
3. Teachers are not responsible for loss or theft of your hand-held device, should confiscation be necessary.
4. Teachers are not responsible for content obtained or downloaded by the student onto his/her personal hand held device.

