English II Pre-AP/Leadership Course Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Carey Johnson
Telephone: 281.284.2100
Class LMS: https://clearcreek.itslearning.com/

Classroom: 223
Email: cajohnson@ccisd.net
Tutorials: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:20 pm

Introduction
English II Pre-AP is a course that is designed to establish a strong foundation in writing and critical thinking; it will prepare students for Advanced Placement English. The course is fast-paced and challenging. Students will read and carefully analyze works of literature and nonfiction and hone writing skills. Additionally, students will be engaged in activities that require critical thinking and close reading.

Course Overview
This course is organized along thematic units and explores multiple genres of world literature. Students enrolled in English II continue to increase and refine their communication skills and are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis. Students edit their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English and produce final, error-free drafts. In English II, students practice multiple forms of writing with an emphasis on persuasive essays. Essays may also include a literary response, a philosophical reflection, an argument essay, a rhetorical analysis, a synthesis essay, or an autobiographical narrative. English II students read extensively in various genres from world literature such as reading selected stories, dramas, novels, and poetry originally written in English or translated to English from Asian, Classical Greek, European, African, South American, and North American cultures. Students also read multiple nonfiction selections. Students learn literary forms and terms associated with selections being read. Students interpret the possible influences of historical context on literary works.

Titles
Students should expect to read the following titles, though this list is not exhaustive and subject to change.

- Excerpts from Iliad by Homer
- Oedipus Rex and Antigone by Sophocles
- Les Misérables by Victor Hugo
- Inferno (The Divine Comedy) by Dante Alighieri
- Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand
- Night by Elie Wiesel
- The Misanthrope by Molière
- Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare
- Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare
- A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
- Selected pieces of nonfiction
- Selected pieces of poetry

General Methods of Assessment and Grade Calculation

- Major Grades (tests, essays, and projects) 50%
- Daily Grades (homework, quizzes, and in-class assignments) 45%
- Reading Assessment (Critical Reading Quizzes) 5%

Homework
Homework generally consists of independent reading and essay assignments. The average amount of homework will depend largely on the student’s reading ability. Students will receive all work at the beginning of the month. The work will be attached to a calendar. All work for the month will be attached. Additionally,
reminders will be posted on the classroom chalkboard, and Ms. Johnson will send Remind text messages to students who sign up to receive this service. Parents are welcome to sign-up for the Remind service as well. All class resources will be available on our Learning Management System (LMS), Itslearning. Students will also have access to a course website on the LMS site. This site will provide copies of notes, power point presentations, and assignments. Students will generally turn in paper copies of assignments. When directed, students will upload electronic assignments to the course website. Homework will be assigned regularly. Generally, students should be able to complete assignments within one hour per day or about 4-5 hours per week.

**Late Work Policy**  
The late work policy is outlined in the CCISD grading procedures. Students will be expected to turn in all assignments at the beginning of class on the date due unless otherwise stipulated. Mrs. Johnson will adhere to the district grading policy and accept late work with the following stipulations:
- 1-2 days late
  - 25% deduction
- 3 or more days late
  - Grade of zero earned on assignment

**Absences & Make-up Work**  
Students will be responsible for making up class work/homework missed while absent. As per CCISD policy, students will have the number of class days missed allowed for make-up work to be completed to receive full credit. Students who are absent and found to be truant will receive 50% of the grade earned on the assignment. Students may attend tutorials for assistance with make-up work. **Students who are absent due to UIL and school sponsored activities must make up work prior to the absence.**

**Expectations for Behavior**
- Be Prompt – Arrive to class on time daily.
- Be Prepared – Bring required materials to class daily.
- Be Respectful – Respect teacher and peers. Students will be expected to respect opinions, space, and personal belongings. Furthermore, students will be expected listen attentively when others are speaking; follow directions immediately, and use appropriate classroom language at all times.
- Be Responsible – Follow the student handbook and code of conduct.
- Be Ethical- Maintain integrity and avoid academic dishonesty.

**Critical Reading Quizzes**  
Critical reading quizzes (CRQ’s) will be administered every nine-week period. CRQ’s are impromptu assessments of critical reading skills. A CRQ is typically comprised of one passage and 10-20 questions related to the passage. They are difficult quizzes and will be graded using the AP curve. Students are rewarded for correct responses to a greater degree than they are penalized for incorrect responses. CRQ’s prepare students for Advanced Placement (AP) English as well as the AP Exam, while also allowing students to improve in areas of critical reading and annotation.

**Vocabulary**  
Students will receive a vocabulary list every other Monday. The following will be provided for each word: part of speech, definition, and etymology (word origin). A quiz will be administered every other Friday. Students will be expected to prepare for this quiz independently. Students will be asked to complete additional writing activities with the vocabulary words and will be administered one vocabulary exam per nine weeks. Vocabulary words will be selected works read in class. Additional vocabulary from the course will be comprised of words that are commonly tested on the SAT/ACT assessments.
Materials
Every day, students are expected to bring the following supplies to class:

- A writing utensil (#2 pencils are required on days exams are given)
- Notebook paper
- Fully-charged laptop or alternative electronic device
- Current unit materials, course calendar, and current unit reading materials
- Additionally, students are asked to bring a copy of A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. Should the student need help obtaining the novel, he/she should contact Mrs. Johnson by Friday on the first week of school so that she can make arrangements.

Each student will receive his/her own copy of the state-adopted textbook, Glencoe Literature Texas Treasures, Course 5. Literature book may be kept at home. In addition, students may opt to purchase their own copies of works taught in class for the purposes of text annotation. The teacher will provide copies to check out if necessary. Students are expected to keep the books provided in good condition. Furthermore, students are expected to bring the books to class when specified. Students who have difficulty purchasing course materials should contact Mrs. Johnson during the first week of school.

Essays
Students should expect to write more frequently in English I than they did in English II. This is a writing-intensive course. Students will write a variety of papers in this class, including: research assignments, literary analyses involving critical responses, creative pieces, and, most frequently, timed essays. A timed essay or free response question (FRQ) is an in-class essay written in fifty minutes. Prompts are similar to the critical response questions. Students must provide depth of understanding while avoiding plot summary, and they are encouraged to write at least two full pages. Timed essays will be graded according to the AP scale. For each out-of-class essay, the students will be provided a rubric detailing the specific instructions for the assignment.

Academic Integrity
Students will be held to a high standard, both academically, and behaviorally. Students will be expected to maintain academic integrity by avoiding academic dishonesty.

CCISD Policy on Academic Dishonesty defines "dishonesty" as cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.

- Defined behaviors of cheating, also from CCISD Policy:
  o Giving or receiving information, looking on someone else’s paper, or allowing someone else to see one’s paper during an exam, test or quiz.
  o Unauthorized receipt or distribution of exam, test or quiz contents, materials, or answer key.
  o Use of unauthorized resources such as notes during an exam.
  o Taking an exam, producing a project, paper or assignment for another student or asking someone to take an exam or produce a project, paper or assignment for you.
  o Copying work assigned to be done independently or letting others copy one’s work.

- Behaviors defined as plagiarism from CCISD Policy:
  o Any misrepresentation of another’s work as one’s own including copying of sentences, phrases, images, entire essays, passages from an undocumented source, musical scores, and other similar works.
  o Academic Dishonesty will result in academic and/or behavioral consequences.
A grade of zero will be given on the work involved, and the grade of zero will be averaged with the other grades.

The building principal will be notified of all incidents of academic dishonesty.

Other actions as determined by building principal such as assignment to In School Suspension (ISS).

Examples of Academic Dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- receiving unauthorized assistance of any kind
- cheating on a test or quiz
- using prohibited material (notes, worksheets, hidden notes, etc.)
- receiving information about a test from other students
- revealing information about a test to other students
- using electronic equipment to transmit answers or test material
- copying from another student's test
- allowing another student to copy work from test or daily assignment
- cheating on an essay or major written project
  - submitting an essay written by another person (in whole or in part)
  - downloading an essay from an internet source
  - restating from a source without providing citations
  - paraphrasing from a source without providing citations

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

- A grade of zero earned on the assignment in question (with no opportunity to re-take)
- A disciplinary referral
- A conduct grade of N or U
- A notation of Academic Dishonesty on student's permanent academic file
- An official report on student's college application and any subsequent scholarship applications
- Removal from Honor Societies
- Removal from the Pre-AP class and placement in a Regular English II class

Honor Code for CCISD

- This Honor Code was developed by Clear Creek ISD high school students with the expressed intent to state that our Academic Integrity is being challenged in the face of high stakes testing and reports of periodic cheating. Therefore, it has become a moral imperative that our work ethic today will impact our future.

- We believe the students of Clear Creek ISD subscribe to becoming self-directed learners and doing the best we can. Furthermore, we believe that academic honesty is respecting yourself and others, as well as claiming your own work.

- We believe students are responsible for maintaining and supporting the academic integrity of the school by completing all assigned work, activities, and tests in an honorable process without engaging in cheating, fraud, plagiarism, or prohibitive electronic assistance. Through this effort, we will become trusted members of society and prepared for the workforce of the 21st Century.

- We believe teachers are responsible for monitoring students during all assessments and holding students accountable for cheating. We believe that each class and teacher is only as strong as each individual's personal commitment to integrity, honor, and responsibility. Teachers are also encouraged to have faith in their student's success and for making sure the class is highly engaging.

- We believe the measure of success of our school community is based on the success of our students so the consequences below shall serve as a deterrent to a violation of this Honor Code and Our Academic Integrity. These consequences will be listed in our Secondary Student Code of Conduct in addition to the In School Suspension consequence. As a result of clear and compelling evidence of a student's cheating:
A student shall receive a "0" for the school work, and is subject to a "U" in conduct and disciplinary action (including ineligibility in the next contest/game).

There will be no retakes for students who cheat.

Students who are enrolled in advanced academic courses (Pre-AP/AP) will be immediately removed from the advanced academic course and placed in the next lower level class.

A student is not eligible for any final exam exemption.

A documented finding of academic dishonesty shall be reported on the student’s college application.

Students in violation of the Honor Code shall be immediately removed from the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society and any other applicable Honor Society.

Special Needs
Should you have any special needs that would allow for a more successful experience in English II Pre-AP (e.g. preferential seating) please notify Ms. Johnson.

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.”

— Plutarch