



English 12

Ms. Jenna Bates, MA, MAT

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*** Do not e-mail me assignments unless you have cleared it with me first. Please do e-mail me if you will be absent for a long period of time.**

Course Description:

English 12 not only focuses on preparing students for the rigorous academic world of college but also on preparing students to understand the world around them, their culture, and themselves. The class will read a variety of writings, most of which are British in origin. Students will improve their reading comprehension, particularly of difficult yet historically significant texts. Students will also utilize the writing process to improve writing skills, particularly in essay writing. Students will create a number of projects that reflect their comprehension of the subject matter. In addition, the class will concentrate on making “real-world” connections with seemingly antiquated texts, that, in fact, are very much alive and flourishing in today’s culture.



Assessments:

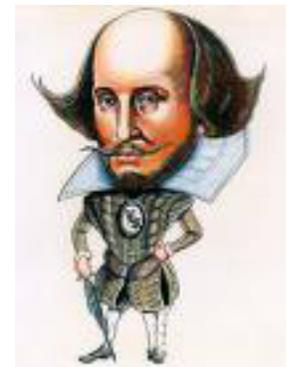
There are five major projects all seniors must complete in addition to their usual daily assignments:

- Free-Reading Friday and prompts
- A presentation on Medieval England
- A soundtrack and promotional material for a Shakespeare play
- A persuasive or argumentative essay with research and citations
- A senior speech

Rules & Expectations

Late Work:

Unless you have failed to turn in an assignment because of an **excused** absence or because you have made **prior** arrangements with me, late work is not accepted. Ever. Not even for partial credit. Don’t ask.



Plagiarism:

I have a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism. Even **suspected** plagiarism on assignments will result in the assignment receiving a zero. Plagiarizing, as defined by Webster, is “to steal and pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another.” It is unethical and — in cases involving creative work — usually illegal. One of the worst sins a writer may commit is to plagiarize from a creative professional — to steal his **words, thoughts, or story outline** and print it as his own. In other words, any direct quotes, specific paraphrasing, even ideas you get from other sources must be cited appropriately in your papers. Plagiarism is stealing and will be treated as such. Do not test me on this one.



Discipline: All school rules apply in this classroom. Any other problems within the classroom — including but not limited to: being tardy to class, talking, sleeping, coming unprepared, vandalism, being disrespectful to the teacher or fellow students, and violation of the rule regarding food and drink — will result in disciplinary action at the teacher’s discretion, which may involve a warning, being sent out into the hall, a zero for the day, a call home, or office referral.

Leaving Class: Leaving the class for any reason (forgotten books, going to guidance or the office, restroom breaks, water breaks, etc.) is a disruption to the class. Bladder control should be a minimum requirement for graduation as far as I’m concerned. Do not ask to leave; you will not be given permission.

Materials: Always have paper, a writing utensil (please no light-colored pens or pencils that are difficult to read), and other required material every day. Failure to bring materials to class may result in disciplinary action. You’re seniors; you should know this by now.

Talking: There is to be no talking during teacher lecture or guided whole-class discussion. As seniors, it’s time to learn to control yourselves in an academic and/or professional environment. Learn to practice politeness and professionalism now. Just because someone else is talking is not an excuse for you to start your own private conversation.

Cell phones: No cell phones are to be turned on or taken out during class. If I see or hear them, I will confiscate them and turn them into the office. Girls must keep their purses on the floor at all times.

Food and Beverages: There will be no eating of food, chewing of gum, or drinking of any liquid other than water from a clear container in the classroom. I will throw away any food or drink (other than water) without question.

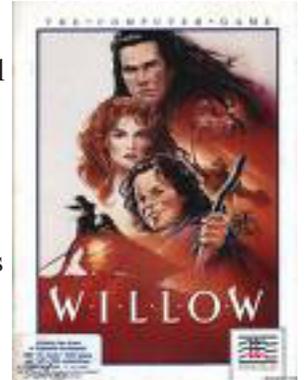
Heads Down: You will not put your head down. Ever. Not even if you’re *not* sleeping. Not even if you’re “really listening.” It’s rude, and it sort of hurts my feelings, not to mention your grade.



Extra Credit: There is no extra credit offered at jobs or in life. Get out of the habit of depending on it. Occasionally, an opportunity for extra credit is offered, but these assignments are infrequent and may not be offered at all. No student should rely on the possibility of extra credit instead of keeping up with assignments and making every effort to complete them to the best of his ability. When you ask me at the end of the semester what you can do to raise your grade, the answer will be, “You should have been doing it all along.” Keep up. It’s really that easy. Every point counts.

Dress Code: Please don’t make me the fashion police. Violation of any of the dress code rules will result first in a warning. If you violate any aspect of the dress code again, you will be given a detention. Third violations will result in office referral and recommended suspension.

Absences: Students with excused absences have the number of days absent plus one to complete homework assigned during the absence. However, if you are absent on the day a long-term assignment is due, it is still due the day you return to class! As the Medieval Presentation is a group assignment, it is essential that you show up on the day you are to present. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed by asking me. I will never accept “I had to work” as an excuse for not completing homework. Your most important job this year is to graduate. You cannot fail my class and graduate. This class must be a priority for you.





Printers/Computers: There always seems to be a rash of computers crashing, printers breaking, and ink running out on the night before a paper is due. These things do happen, but if you've waited until the night before to print your paper, you've waited too long. Technology issues are no excuse for not turning in an assignment on time. Plan ahead, check your ink, do a test run a couple days before. Get to the media center, get to your local library, get to a friend's house. Make it work. If all else fails, hand write the paper and turn it in. You will receive points off, but it will be better than a zero. **You are not allowed to e-mail your assignments unless you have asked me ahead of time.** I am not your secretary. You will be charged 25 cents per page to use my printer (if it's working).

Getting help: Finally, remember to ask for help if you are struggling. I am available during the last period of the day. Do not hesitate to ask for clarification on any assignment. I am more than happy to help in any way that I can, but I cannot open up your head and pour knowledge into it. You must meet me halfway. Many of you leave during 4th period. Do not use this as an excuse for not seeking help. If you leave, make other arrangements with me so that you can get the help you need. However, in general, if you show up to class, bring your materials, maintain a positive attitude, and try your best, you will succeed in this class.



Parent Signature

Dear Parents:

Please review this syllabus and discuss it with your senior. English 12 is required for graduation, so it's very important that your senior understands that he or she must pass this class. I will try my best to inform parents if their senior is in danger of failing each quarter. If you have an e-mail address, please write it legibly below; it is the fastest and easiest way for me to contact you. At any time, if you'd like to schedule a face-to-face conference, please e-mail me or contact the guidance department.

Also, by signing below, you are giving your permission for your senior to view films and film clips during the year. The National Council of Teachers of English and the state of Ohio have recognized that visual media is very important to the study of literature, and I plan to show clips of the following in order for students to better understand the reading: *The Power of Myth*, *The Sword of the Valiant*, *Excalibur*, TED Talks and perhaps others. Students may watch in full: *Beowulf* (UR), an episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Doctor Horrible's Sing-along Blog*, *Willow* or *Star Wars*, *Titus* (R), *V for Vendetta* (R), and various fairy tales. If you would like more information on any of these, please let me know.

I have read the English 12 syllabus and understand its contents. I also give my permission for

_____ to watch the films in class that are listed in this syllabus.

_____ **Signature** _____ **Date**

_____ **E-mail**

Projects and Assignments

This is not a complete list, but it may be handy to refer to it often in order to plan accordingly.

I. What is “good” writing?

- 3 examples
- Poster relay
- Sentence revision

II. Research Paper

• **Project:** Three-to-five page research paper, with Works Cited and in-text citations in MLA format. The paper is argumentative or persuasive on a topic of your choice.

III. Free Reading Fridays

• Each Friday, you will read for the period. For the first 9 weeks, you will read anything of your choice, including magazines and newspapers. For the second quarter, you will choose a book from a list that I will provide. For the third quarter, you will read the novel assigned. For the final quarter, you will read your independent novel in preparation of a presentation. For all, you will be completing journal entries.

IV. What is a hero?

- Beowulf (+ film)
 - **Test:** *Beowulf* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (short answer)
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (+ film clip)
- *Morte D’Arthur* (+ film clip)
 - **Test:** Knights, Heroes, and *Willow* or *Star Wars* (essay)
- **Video:** *Dr. Horrible’s Sing-along Blog* (+work sheet)
- **Project:** Group presentation on Medieval England

V. Ballads and other medieval poetry

- Test
- Write your own

VI. Sonnets

- **Test:** Identify Spenserian, Shakespearean, and Petrarchan sonnets (short answer; fill-in-the-blank)

VII. Shakespeare

- **Project:** Acting out the scene
- **Project:** Soundtrack

VIII. The Romantics

- Wordsworth, Blake, Byron, Keats, the Shelleys
- **Film:** *Frankenstein*
- **Test:** What is Romanticism? (short answer)

IX. Novel (TBA)

X. OTHER (TBA)

X. Independent Reading

- Choose a book of your choice.
- **Project:** Presentation of book and poster

XI. Senior Speech

- **Project:** Presentation of reflective speech