



ENGLISH 11 HONORS 2017-2018 SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Catherine Lee
ROOM: J

E-MAIL: clee@bcseagles.org
WEBSITE: leeclassroom.com

COURSE OVERVIEW

Andrea Lundsford says, “Rhetoric is the art, practice, and study of human communication.” We will study the art of rhetoric through an examination of American and British literature as well as works of non-fiction from around the world. This course is both reading and writing intensive. By the end of the course, students should be able to do the following with competence:

- Identify audience, purpose, and rhetorical strategies in texts
- Write expository, analytical, and argumentative essays
- Understand their own writing process and the importance of revision
- Recognize techniques in visual and verbal arguments
- Master the skill of close reading of pre-20th century literature
- Synthesize ideas and information from various sources
- *Have something to say. Say it clearly. Say it thoroughly.*

THE AP EXAMINATION

You will have the option to take the national AP English Language & Composition Exam in May. Students with passing scores earn college credit. The test is approx. \$90, due by Spring Break.

TEXTS

These texts are supplemented by a sizeable addition of non-fiction works (speeches, essays, etc).

- *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury (summer)
- *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
- *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens
- *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
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- *Night*, Elie Wiesel
- *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Shakespeare
- *Various poetry selections*
- *Non-fiction Independent Reading*
- *The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation*

N.B. Some texts contain mature content or controversial issues. We will discuss context and examine multiple views. I approach all texts prayerfully to ensure discussions are meaningful and appropriate.

SPEECH

On numerous occasions, students are expected to speak in front of the class in both informal and formal presentations. There will also be 1 memorized recitation per semester.

FILMS

Films are treated as texts as they foster discussions on intertextuality, literary revisionism, and perspective. We will watch portions of the following films:

- *Fahrenheit 451* (1966)
- *The Great Gatsby* (2013)
- *Of Mice and Men* (1992)
- *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Globe Theater)

I also incorporate music and video clips to illustrate tone, rhetorical devices, literary tropes, and appeals.

GRADING

- Participation, Engagement, & Preparedness (P.E.P) 10%
- Homework 20%
- Quizzes 30%
- Tests (including major papers and projects) 40%

Unless otherwise noted, assignments should be turned into the tray *at the beginning of class*. There are at least three test grades per quarter and a final exam at the end of each semester. A research paper is assigned in the 2nd semester. The P.E.P grade reflects the student's engagement during in-class assignments and preparedness (bringing materials to class, engaging in discussions, etc.).

MAKE UP WORK POLICY

You have one day for each excused absence to make up assignments. Missed tests will be rescheduled. With unexcused absences, all missed hw is due the first day you return. If you know that you will be absent, contact me ahead of time, NOT on the day something is due. Late work will not be accepted and will result in a zero (school policy). Refer to the BCS handbook for details.

CLASSROOM CIVILITY

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." Colossians. 3:12

The literature we read provides many opportunities for class discussions and debates. You are encouraged to share your thoughts and speak your mind in a manner that is respectful of others with differing perspectives. Opinions should be expressed with compassion and humility.

GUIDELINES

- Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating, will result in a zero and a referral. I trust you to complete your own work and be truthful in all interactions.
- Come to class prepared. Bring your book and binder to class every day.
- No spoilers! If you have already read a book or watched a film adaptation, don't spoil the plot.
- Write clearly and legibly. Illegible assignments will be marked *Incomplete* and you will be required to rewrite or type your work. Feel free to type any take-home assignments.
- All formal writing will follow MLA guidelines.

PROCEDURES

- Most class sessions will begin with a brief bellwork writing prompt (part of P.E.P. grade).
- During tests and quizzes, you will place your backpacks and all other belongings against the back wall. You may not have anything at your desk except a pen and a water bottle.
- You will write and sign the honor code at the bottom of every test.
- Use a blue or black pen for all homework, quizzes, and tests. No pencils, please.
- At the top of all your work, you will print your full name, date, and your assigned number.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

RENWEB – school-wide information management system (hw assignments, grades, etc.)

I post homework and test/quiz dates on Friday afternoons for the following week. They are also on my board and announced verbally. ***I defer to RenWeb if there is ever a discrepancy.***

LEECLASSROOM.COM – class notes, rubrics, and resources (Password: 2COR4)

GOOGLE CLASSROOM – online writing assignments and discussion boards (Class code: 32uklyt)

REMIND.COM – text announcements and reminders (Text @11h1718 to the number 81010)

TURNITIN.COM – submit formal essays, plagiarism reports (Class ID: 15496784 / Password: frankenstein)

*"There is always the danger that we may just do the work for the sake of the work. This is where the **respect** and the **love** and the devotion come in – that we do it to God, to Christ, and that's why we try to do it as beautifully as possible." ~Mother Teresa*