

Class: British Literature & Composition

Grade Level: 12th

Date: August 2013-June 2014

Teacher: Ms. Young

Contact: msyoung2014@gmail.com AND myoung@stbernardhs.com

Course Description

This English course is intended to provide students with a broad survey of important works of British literature, while also emphasizing reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills. Students will engage in academic discussion and writing while learning crucial literary terms, including: plot; setting; character; narrator and voice; theme; irony; foreshadowing; symbolism; and allegory. They will learn to become literary critics of poetry, drama, short stories, and novels. Furthermore, students will gain practice in grammar and vocabulary that will be beneficial to their writing and reading skills. Finally, this course uses texts selected in order to assist students in mastering the California State Standards.

Purpose: Students will improve their communication abilities, especially in the areas of speaking and writing. The emphasis of this course is to build students' knowledge in all areas of English: grammar, vocabulary, reading, research, writing, and literary development.

Expectations

As seniors, you are now in a leadership role in the school and I expect your leadership in our classroom. In order to create an environment that is conducive to learning, everyone will need to behave like a mature young adult. This means that you:

1. Come to class on time and prepared to learn.
2. Respect all people, property, and ideas.
3. Have a positive attitude and outlook.
4. Are responsible for yourself and your choices.
5. Do your very best!

All of the rules in the student handbook apply to this course.

Grading: This course uses the school's standard grading scale:

A+	97% and above	C+	77% to 79%
A	93% to 96%	C	73% to 76%
A-	90% to 92%	C-	70% to 72%
B+	87% to 89%	D+	67% to 69%
B	83% to 86%	D	63% to 66%
B-	80% to 82%	D-	60% to 62%
		Fail	59% and below

All assignments in class will receive points that fall under the following grading categories:
25% → Participation & Classwork: Do Now, Exit Slips, etc.

Time spent on prompt, quality of work, connection to unit or chapter material, grammatical correctness, connection to modern-day, class engagement, and group contributions.

10% → Homework

Timely completion of assigned materials, an effort to answer or address questions or prompts correctly, ability to submit on given due-date.

15% → Literary Tests and Quizzes

Familiarity with the assigned material, well-practiced study habits, engagement with corresponding homework and class discussion; Understanding of unit themes, prominent literary themes, applicable writing techniques/form, and key terminology.

20% → Papers & Long-term Assignments

Ability to write a thesis-driven essay, supporting a claim, argument, or idea with cited and factual sources that are both relative and conclusive.

10% → Grammar and Vocabulary Quizzes

Understanding of the grammatical concepts taught and thorough comprehension of vocabulary words

5% → Writing Journal

Journal questions will be assigned daily at the beginning of class. You are expected to answer each one, having at least one full page of writing. Each week, you will turn in your journals to me, picking one journal entry that you want me to read. I will be checking that all journal entries are present and that the proper amount of effort has been given to them.

15% → Mid-Term and Final Semester Examination

Proven understanding of the comprehensive course material, familiarity with chronological occurrences, ability to identify key terminology, and ability to apply to modern or contemporary examples.

Rewards and Consequences

Individual Consequences

Rewards: If you complete all of your work and follow our classroom expectations, you will be greatly rewarded with the knowledge you've gained; this knowledge can lead you to success, both personal and academic.

Behavior Plan: If your behavior is unbecoming of a mature young adult, the following will happen:

1. Verbal warning and/or conference
2. Notification to parent/guardian and student counselor
3. Conference with the student, parent/guardian, and counselor
4. Written referral and administrative action

Materials

Each student is expected to bring the following materials to every class:

1. Blue or black pen, red pen, highlighter, AND pencil
2. College Ruled paper
3. Agenda/assignment notebook
4. Binder with dividers for:
 1. Literature notes/handouts
 2. Grammar notes/handouts
 3. Writing Journal
 4. Returned homework and essays
 5. Returned tests
5. Textbook or novel being discussed that class period
6. Blank index cards and a binder ring.
7. A positive attitude and an open mind

Books required for our class

- Vocabulary Power Plus for the New SAT, Book 4
 - ISBN: 9781580492560
- Holt Textbook-Literature & Language Arts 6th Course
 - ISBN: 9780030564987
- *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare
 - ISBN: 9781411400344
- Other selected short stories and poems
 - Provided by Ms. Young

It is VERY IMPORTANT that students all purchase the correct editions of the book. This will enable us to—literally—stay on the same page as a class. If you are not sure if your edition is correct, please check with Ms. Young.

If you cannot afford to purchase new texts, then a student should consider trying on-line discounters (e.g., www.ebay.com, www.amazon.com, or www.allbookstores.com etc.), borrowing a copy from a public library, asking a student who previously took the course to lend them the book. If you have tried all of these methods but still cannot locate a copy of the texts, please speak with the teacher immediately.

THE HOLT TEXTBOOK MUST BE PURCHASED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT WILL BE USED BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 3/4.

Office Hours: To succeed in this course and your future academic career, you must take responsibility for your own work. Organize your schedule and take advantage of class time. As in college, you must take the initiative to meet with me for assistance either in class or after school.

Reading and Writing Assignments: All reading assignments must be completed BEFORE the date for which they are assigned. Students should annotate texts as they read and include questions that may arise.

All class work must be written or printed neatly in blue or black ink on white loose-leaf paper. The **proper heading** for this class belongs in the top left corner of EACH PAGE that a student submits:

Student's Name
Teacher's Name
Class and Period
Assignment
Date

All final drafts must be typed, double-spaced, in standard 12 point Times New Roman font, and must follow MLA format including a Works Cited page when appropriate.

Late Policy and Extra Credit: Students are expected to complete **all** assignments on time. Late assignments will receive a **reduced credit** of 10% for the first day late and no credit after that except in the case of an excused absence (see Student Handbook). There will be opportunities for students to earn extra credit throughout the year, however no extra credit assignment will be given by request.

Quizzes/Tests: Students may complete a make-up test if absent (excused) on the day of a test within one week of the originally scheduled test (excludes midterms and finals). If a student does

not show up for and complete a make-up test at the agreed upon time, the opportunity to do so is forfeit. Students may only take the midterm and final exams on the scheduled day(s). Students not present for the midterm and/or final on the scheduled day(s) will receive a zero.

Communication Policies

Communication by Phone: Please call the school at (310) 823-4651. If I am not available, please leave a message; I will try to be as prompt as possible when returning phone calls.

Email: You will probably receive a faster response with email. You can email me anytime at: msyoung2014@gmail.com - My personal teacher email address
myoung@stbernardhs.com - My official St. Bernard email address. This email address will also be on the school website and the HomeLogic website.

PLEASE remember to include your name and your student's name in the body of the email. Your student's name in the subject line of the email would also be great!

Plagiarism & Cheating

The school's honor pledge may appear on quizzes, tests, exams (midterm and final), formal written assignments, or whenever requested by the teacher. The honor pledge is as follows:

On my honor, I pledge that I have not violated any of the provisions of the St. Bernard High School Academic Honor Code.

Student's Signature

Plagiarizing & Cheating Policy: Each student is expected to complete his or her own work. If a student receives assistance with an assignment (e.g. a tutor, teacher, parent/guardian/relative, another student, the Internet, or another outside source) they must indicate who assisted them, for what reason and to what extent. If a student does not declare when he or she receives assistance, it will be considered dishonest behavior, cheating, and/or plagiarism.

The Plagiarism Policy listed in the Student Handbook will be followed.

BRITISH LITERATURE CONFIRMATION & AGREEMENT DOCUMENT

If you agree to the rules, expectations and possible disciplinary actions set forth in this document and if you agree to hold your student accountable to the rules, expectations and possible disciplinary actions set forth in this document please complete the following section.

Student's Name	
Student's Signature	
Date Signed by Student	
Student's E-mail	
Student's Home Phone Number	
Parent/Guardian Name	
Relationship to Student	
P/G Signature	
Date Signed	
P/G's E-mail	
P/G's Work Number	
P/G's Home Number	
P/G's primary language	
Does P/G speak English?	
Is there computer access at home?	
Is there internet access at home?	

Comments:

Do you have any specific concerns for your student that I should be made aware of?
