AP ENGLISH IV SEMINAR

**2015 - 2016**

***Mrs. Marcia Curtis***

***Room 360***

***Conference period: 8th period (3:15-4:05)***

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# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This AP English IV Seminar provides a stimulating college-level class that encourages students to develop lifelong reading, writing, and thinking habits while preparing them to take the AP Literature and Composition Exam in May.

# PHILOSOPHY

The study of literature and the writing about literature are essential because through the reading of literature we gain self-knowledge and insight into the human condition, we discover our commonality with people of other cultures and other times, and we learn to appreciate the beauty of our own language and expression. Through writing and oral discussion, we force ourselves to know what we think and to structure and support those thoughts so that we can communicate with others. What could be more important?

COURSE OF STUDY

Writing, discussion and student choice are at the heart of this AP English IV course. After an initial whole-class study of short fiction, students will choose titles of literary merit for independent, partner, and small group study. Student choices must reflect diversity of authorial styles, literary period, nationality, and gender. To facilitate understanding and discussion, students will utilize old and new methods of discovery – from the Socratic Seminar to appropriate and useful integration of technology.

In these contexts, students will

* Analyze style in works of fiction, drama, and poetry
* Explore literary theory and apply those concepts to fiction, drama and poetry
* Learn and apply high-level academic vocabulary to works of fiction, drama, and poetry
* Compose and revise college essays
* Integrate research into many modes of writing with appropriate documentation
* Practice and analyze Advanced Placement multiple choice questions
* Write AP timed essays
* Compare and contrast works of fiction, drama, and poetry
* Learn and apply Modern Language Association guidelines regarding documentation, citation, and format
* Consider the human condition and how the development of literature over time reflects our struggles, celebrations, and understanding of existence

# TEXTS and MATERIALS

*Perrine’s Literature: Structure, Sound & Sense*, Thomas R. Arp and Greg Johnson, eds., Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Students are encouraged to buy their own electronic or paperback copies of novels and plays.

**Students are expected to bring their charged iPads as well as any current texts to class every day.**

### GRADES AND PROCEDURES

* I believe my job is to help students become better writers, readers and, ultimately, thinkers. Therefore, I strive to provide intellectually stimulating and engaging coursework that is relevant and challenging. The expectation is that students will complete all assignments on time and to the best of their abilities.
* I will not deduct points for late work. The grade in the gradebook should represent the quality of student work. Sometimes students need more time to do high quality thinking, critical reading, and thoughtful writing, which are the key components of this course.
* Students must contact me ahead of the deadline to negotiate a reasonable extension.
* If a student has a chronic issue with late work, we will determine what the cause is and work to rectify the situation.
* Skipping assignments is not permitted. If an assignment is not turned in, students will receive a zero until the work is completed. Any zeroes will be converted to an INCOMPLETE for that grading period until the work is turned in and graded. ***Students will receive an Incomplete until all assignments have been completed.***