“The events in our lives happen in a sequence in time but in their significance to ourselves they find their own order... the continuous thread of revelation.”
Eudora Welty, Writer

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12th Grade English Course Information

- 12th Grade English lessons are based on the theory that “Literature is a reflection of real life”, pushing students to see, analyze, synthesize and evaluate purpose, meaning and connection between the text and the world.

- Expectations mandated by Common Core Standards are key to each unit.

- We will search for meaning, purpose and tone, ethos, pathos and logos, and connecting these elements for creative and critical thinking and analysis.

- Discussion is not only encouraged, but also EXPECTED, and used as a source of evaluation. In other words, discussion participation will be graded.

- ACADEMIC WRITING (analysis, persuasion, argument, etc.) WILL BE A REQUIREMENT IN EACH UNIT. We will use the Six Traits of Writing as a base for writing assessment; senior students will strive to write at the mastery level. Six Traits scoring rubrics can be found in my “Resources”.

- Input and modeling will be FRONTLOADED – students should seek help from me through their processing of information and completing assignments; you will see support on work prior to formative assessment, not on assessed work. This means that you will not see corrections on work handed in for assessment – only the assessment grade. You will see corrections and suggestions on draft copies only. It is the student’s responsibility to care and make time for this input. Class time will be provided for support.

- Inquiry Based Learning and real world connections, student driven research, and presentation will support understanding why you believe something, and prove validity. Unit plans integrate a theme and Essential Questions

- We will read a minimum of 3 major pieces of literature (novel, memoir, etc.) with each piece supported by related readings (essays, short stories, poems, novel excerpts), viewing (films, documentaries) and other media components, as well as academic and creative writing, discussion and analysis. The list included is representative, but not inclusive:

Print:
Various essays – both academic and popular culture
Various short stories – both classic and contemporary
The Greek Myths – Hero stories, esp. Homer’s The Odyssey
Arthurian Legend, esp. Mallory’s Morte d’Arthur
Beowulf by Unknown poet circa 7th to 10th century
I am Legend by Richard Matheson
Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom
Great Short Stories by American Women by Various writers, Dover Publishing
Excerpts from:
- Friday Night Lights by H.G. Bissinger
- Night Flying Woman by Ignatia Broker
- Dracula by Bram Stoker
- Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
- The Things that they Carried by Tim O’Brien

Media/Film:
- Various clips and documentaries
  - The Incredibles, 2003
  - Simon Birch, 1998
  - I am Legend, 2007
  - The Five People you Meet in Heaven, 2004
  - The Pursuit of Happyness, 2006

Writing:
- The Handouts by Steve Peha from “Teaching that makes Sense”
- Various academic skills workshop excerpts

- Units of Study

Unit #1: September
Literature Anchor: Friday Night Lights by HG Bissinger
- Essential Question: How has the hero evolved? What has happened to our heroes? What role does technology and ethics play in our world?
- Viewing Connection: The Incredibles, Beowulf
- Listening and Speaking Connection: Literature Circle Discussion
- Writing Connection: Literary Analysis, Academic Writing – Definition Essay

Unit #2: October
Literature Anchor: I am Legend by Richard Matheson
- Essential Question: What scares you? What do you fear for us as a society? What do you believe in strongly enough to risk everything defending?
- Viewing Connection: TBD
- Listening, Speaking and Writing Connection: Persuasive Speech, Compare and Contrast Essay

Unit #3: November
- Literature Anchor: Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom
  - Essential Question: How do we attribute meaning and purpose in our lives? What is meaningful and purposeful?
  - Viewing Connection: Five People You Meet in Heaven, Life is Beautiful
  - Listening and Speaking Connection: Interviews
  - Writing Connection: Personal Response, Academic Writing – Expository Essay

Unit #4: November and December
Literature Anchor: To be announced
- Essential Question: What is your destiny? How will you find your voice and express your message? Ultimately, what will you say and how will you make the world a better place?
- Viewing Connection: Simon Birch, The Pursuit of Happyness
- Listening, Speaking and Writing Connection: Oral Presentation
- Writing Connection: Blue Book Essay Final Exam

***each unit includes language and rhetoric study