

Boston Collegiate Charter School

AP Literature and Composition Grade 12: 2011-2012

Teacher: Joelle Renstrom

Phone: 617-265-1172 ext 265

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays at lunch (or by appointment)

Office Hours Location: TBA—find me in the 2nd floor teachers' office and we'll find a space

Classroom: 130

Email: jrenstrom@bostoncollegiate.org

Office: 275

Course Overview

This course will require students to perform close readings of literature from various genres, cultures, countries, and time periods. Students will read and analyze poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction, increasing their ability to read for meaning, comprehension, and application to other texts and to the world at large. Students will continue to build their analytical and argumentative writing skills, and will express their understanding in formal literary essays that require them to incorporate higher-level vocabulary, as well as the continued proper use of mechanics. Revision of essays will comprise a key component of the class's composition focus—we will evaluate and edit our own writing with an eye toward the development of articulate argumentation and with the goal of making measurable progress in the life-long process of writing.

Critical thinking, reading, and writing skills will be developed by and demonstrated in group discussions, seminars, peer editing, projects, presentations, essays, creative writing, tests/quizzes, and cultural and literary comparisons. Daily reading assignments should be expected, as well as homework that reflects your responses (personal, analytical, and critical) to the assigned reading and/or answers to specific questions.

Students will be responsible for maintaining and organizing a class binder/notebook that will include their in-class notes, class work, Do Knows, pre-writing, essay drafts, and reader response journals. I will be checking notebooks every few weeks to review this work, which will count toward the students' class work grades. I will also ask that students submit and/or be ready to share reader response journals.

You will have a midterm essay examination in January. In lieu of a final exam, you will submit a culminating essay, including self-reflection and self-analysis.

This course will require you to think, read and write a great deal, re-read and re-write, and then think some more. It will be hard work, but as you know, the more you put in, the more you'll get out. This class will be fun and rewarding, and will hopefully cause you to look at literature, at yourselves, and at the world in new ways.

AP Exam

On **Thursday, May 10**, you will take the AP Literature and Composition exam. Your score on this exam will not impact your grade in the class, but will determine whether you receive college credit for taking the course, and how much. The three-hour exam consists of a one-hour multiple-choice section and a two-hour free-response section. All of the critical analysis and writing assigned in the class will help you prepare for the exam. Also, many of the quizzes and tests you'll take throughout the year will incorporate elements of the AP exam so you will be familiar with the format, as well as types of questions, essay prompts, and critical reading passages. While it's certainly great to score well on this exam and receive college credit, the main focus of the class is on your improved analytical, reading, and writing skills, as well as increased knowledge of the world and yourself.

Part of our AP test prep will involve working from *Cracking the AP English Literature & Composition Exam, 2011 Edition*, which will be supplied for you by BCCS.

Required AP Study Sessions

Each student enrolled in AP Literature and Composition must attend three Saturday study sessions. You and your parents should have received a letter in June with this information and dates. These study sessions will help you on the May AP exam by providing overviews of the exam, practice taking the various parts of the exam, and insights into how the exam and your score breaks down.

The dates of the Saturday Study Sessions for AP Literature and Composition are:

Saturday 10/15	(overview and analysis)
Saturday 1/21	(practice test and MC focus)
Saturday 3/24	(deconstruction of test)

*Please mark these dates in your calendars if you haven't already and let me know ASAP if there is a conflict.

Policies and Procedures

Please refer to BCCS Student and Family Handbook for any additional policies not mentioned below.

Homework: Homework must be turned in to the HW folder in advisory by 8:00 am. Any homework that doesn't make it into the folder by the time it leaves for delivery is considered late. If you have an excused tardy and a pass, you can give me the homework at the beginning of class.

***Always turn in hard copies of assignments. Only email them to me if you're absent. If you ARE absent, then you MUST email your assignment on the due date.**

** Typed assignments are always better than hand-written ones. Essays and other major writing assignments must be typed.

Late Submissions: The following late submission policy applies to **ALL CATEGORIES** of assignments:

Students present at school who have not turned in an assignment will have:

- 25% deducted from their score if the work is submitted the next school day
- 50% deducted from their score if the work is submitted within two school days
- No Credit if work is submitted after 2 days

The teacher has the option to require that students complete any incomplete or late homework, but not for credit. This will usually be done if the homework is part of a larger assignment (e.g. an outline for the unit writing assignment) so that future grades do not suffer.

Major Assessments: Major writing assignments for each unit **must be typed**. Turn in **hard copies**. Computer and printing problems should be resolved by you ahead of time. If it's not in the HW folder by 8:00, it's late.

Yahoo Site: Each student is required to become a member of the AP Lit/Comp Yahoo website. All homework assignments will be available download on the site. The site provides an additional way of accessing assignments you may have misplaced or missed, as well as a forum for discussion with your classmates.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bccsaplit/>
group email (goes to everyone): bccsaplit@yahoogroups.com

Absences: If you are not in class please access check the Yahoo site for homework and/or have a fellow student collect handouts and relay to you the homework for that day. **Absent students are responsible for any homework not handed in the day they were absent.** Students should feel free to contact Ms. Renstrom with any questions regarding homework they may have missed. It is the student's responsibility to catch up with any missed assignments.

If students are absent on the day that an assessment (paper, seminar, test, project, etc) is due or administered, they must **inform me via e-mail before 5 pm on that day**. If the student fails to contact me, s/he will **lose 25% of the possible grade for each day the assignment is late**.

If the major assessment is administered during class, students are required to schedule a make-up time and date for the assessment by the end of the next day that they return to school **or they will receive a 0 for that assessment**. All assessments must be completed **within 3 school days** of the student's return unless extenuating circumstances are coordinated with the advisor and/or principal.

Extensions: If extenuating circumstances arise, you may ask for an extension on an assignment. Whether or not you actually get an extension depends on the situation. I will only give a one-day extension for smaller homework assignments; extensions for major assignments will depend on how much work you already have done and how proactive you are in your request. For an extension on major assignments, you must ask Ms. Renstrom **at least 3 days** before the assignment is due.

Ends of Quarters: No late work or make-up class assessments will be accepted after the end of a quarter. In the event that a student is absent on the last day of the quarter and there is an assignment due or an in-class assessment, **all assessments must be submitted and completed by 3 PM of the next school day**. There will be no work accepted past this deadline.

Rewrites: Major assessment/essay grades will stand (especially because you will have ample opportunities for rough drafts, workshops, extra help, etc). However, you can rewrite an essay or other major writing assignment for homework points and can earn up to half the points you lost on the paper. For example, if you got 30/50 on your essay, you could earn up to 10 HW points depending on the quality of your rewrite. Rewrites must be turned in **within 3 days** of receiving the initial grade for that assignment (a paper returned to you on Monday would have to be rewritten and handed in by Thursday).

Cheating: Passing off another person's work as your own is strictly prohibited and, as stated in the school handbook, "illegal." Any plagiarism and/or cheating on homework, papers, exams, etc. will result in an automatic grade of 0 for that assignment. **You are required to cite all work that is not your own in your papers**. If you are confused or don't know how or when to cite references, please ask me.

Office Hours/Extra Help: Just like in college, it is your responsibility to seek extra help if you need it. Please find me during my office hours or make an appointment to talk to me at another time. Also, please feel free to contact me via email, telephone, etc whenever the need arises.

Communication: This is the single most important aspect of any student-teacher relationship. If there's something going on that is affecting, or may affect, your schoolwork and/or attendance, let Ms. Renstrom know ASAP. Things happen unexpectedly, things go wrong, and life gets stressful and busy—teachers understand this, and are happy to work with you if something comes up. **But you must communicate with your teachers BEFORE assignments are due**. We can't help you if we don't know what's going on. This class (and all classes) functions best with clear and timely communication. Likewise, if you have any problems, questions, concerns, or suggestions, please let Ms. Renstrom know!

Materials Needed

1. A well-organized binder/notebook for class notes, reading journals, handouts, vocab, Do Nows, etc
2. Homework and major paper drafts and revisions
3. Good questions about the readings, assignments, or anything else class-related
4. Text (always bring the book we're reading to class)
5. *Cracking the AP English Literature & Composition Exam, 2011 Edition* (supplied by BCCS)

Units

Please note that due to a variety of factors, specific dates are subject to change. Other readings, including short stories, poems, biographies, historical documents, and articles will also be assigned.

The overarching theme of the course is paradigm shifts and what they, and our ability to perform them (or not), say about human nature and the way we've been cultured to live our lives. If you're not sure what this means yet, don't worry—you will!

8/22 – 8/26 Introduction to the class / summer reading & writing

Unit 1: The search for meaning and coping strategies: transformations, absurdism, and the invention of reality

8/29 – 9/23 *Slaughterhouse Five* – Kurt Vonnegut

9/26 – 10/12 *Metamorphosis* – Franz Kafka

Early October: **College essay workshops**

10/12 – 11/4 *The Stranger* – Albert Camus

Unit 2: Identity and change: how does identity impact free will and our ability to enact it?

11/7 – 11/18 *Oedipus Rex* – Sophocles

11/21 – 12/22 *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* – Carson McCullers

* Winter break (12/23 - 1/3)

MIDTERM Wed Jan 25

1/4 – 1/20 *Twelfth Night* – Shakespeare

Unit 3: How did the world and the people in it come to be this way? What forces have shaped us? What can we do about it?

1/30 – 3/10 *Ceremony* – Leslie Marmon Silko

Feb break 2/20 – 2/24 / senior trip TBA

3/12 – 4/13 *Ishmael* – Daniel Quinn

April break 4/16 – 4/20

Unit 4: AP test prep & To Wait or Not to Wait...

4/23 – 5/18 *Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Beckett
AP Test Prep

*** Thurs, May 10 - AP Lit & Comp test**

Final essay due: Tues May 15 (date subject to change)

GRADES*

Class Work: 10%

In-class writings, exercises, and assignments; AP prep

Participation: 15%

I will keep track of who speaks in class and will assign points every week. A maximum of 15 participation points can be earned each week (up 3 points per day depending on the quality of the contribution).

Homework: 15%

Reader responses, journals, Q&A, paper drafts and outlines, daily reading preparation, AP prep

Major Assessments: 35%

Tests, essays, other major writing assignments

Presentations: 25%

Seminars, projects, presentations, discussion leading

*Please note that the distribution above will count for 80% of your final grade. There will also be a **mid-term exam** counting for 7% and **final exam** counting for 13% of your final grade.

Extra Credit: I will be handing out extra credit reading lists related to the units we're working on. Students can read one of these texts and write a reaction that articulates analytical, critical, and personal responses.

Performance Standards

By the end of 12th grade, students will have further developed their ability to:

- Understand and adeptly use correctly standard grammatical conventions
- Acquire and use an advanced vocabulary of English words in writing and speech
- Identify and discuss the main ideas, characters, themes, symbols, purpose, and connections between works of fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and drama (both read and performed)
- Identify and analyze point of view, narrative structure, tone, foreshadowing, irony, imagery, mood, audience, and literary devices such as simile, alliteration, allegory, trope, and metaphor in works of literature, poetry, drama, and nonfiction, especially as they contribute to an author's purpose
- Write well-organized, well-developed, appropriately chosen, and specific analytical and critical arguments supported by textual evidence and examples
- Write well-organized and well-developed informational, persuasive, expressive, and creative pieces
- Use effectively standard English conventions in editing, revising, and proofreading
- Speak effectively in a variety of settings, making oral presentations, arguments, and leading discussions
- Analyze how a work of literature reflects the period, ideas, culture, history, experience, and outlooks of a people living in a particular time and place
- Conduct close readings of texts using the terminology of literary criticism and present interpretations based on specific evidence from the text
- Apply knowledge of the concept that the theme or meaning of a selection a view or comment on life, and locate evidence in the text to support their understanding of an identified theme
- Formulate original, open-ended research questions, gather information, analyze and evaluate the quality of the information obtained, and use it to answer their own questions
- Identify and analyze connections between texts and authors, as well as the expansion of ideas
- Apply themes and ideas from texts to the world, the people in it, and ourselves