

**Mrs. Catherine Aschinger**  
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**Saint Mary's College High School • Senior English**  
**English Literature-Fall 2008**

The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.

-F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Course Description**

Shakespeare, Keats, Austen - all literary greats that you will discover in this semester long course. This course will give you the chance to read and interpret a wide range of imaginative works including the classics *Beowulf*, *Canterbury Tales*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Dracula* and *A Christmas Carol*. Topics include, but are not limited to, the history of the English novel, Gothic and horror literature, Romanticism and revolution, pastoral poetry, the epic and romance tradition, Victorian decadent writers, the stream of consciousness novel, utopian/dystopian literature, etc. This course is designed to enhance the ability of students to apply various trends in critical theory (such as feminism, deconstruction, psychoanalytic criticism, new historicism, reader-response criticism, cultural criticism, multiculturalism, etc.) to a particular aspect of or approach to English literature, which falls under the rubric of a particular genre, mode, period, movement, or theme. By doing so you'll get to explore a variety of genres and literary periods and acquire a set of analytical skills to use throughout your life - you'll also really enhance your enjoyment of literature.

And you never know, the course may even inspire you to become the next literary great!

**Reading:**

Students will be expected to commit themselves to reading all works completely, as well as being active readers who highlight and/or make notes in margins. There will be regular reading quizzes, summary tests, and major writing assignments on works studied.

**Writing:**

Writing for the course emphasizes the continued development of analytic writing and critical thinking; both understood to be imbedded in the "critical steps" in the writing process:

- Pre-writing (active reading response, brainstorming, clustering, outlining)
- Rough-drafting
- Proofreading and Peer-editing
- Final drafting and Publishing

Vocabulary development will be emphasized, including a review and practice of elements of grammar and usage.

### **Discussion/ public speaking:**

The focus will be on effective and articulate communication of ideas and participation in class.

### **Texts/Materials**

- Beowulf (translated by Burton Rafael)
- The Canterbury Tales : Chaucer
- Much Ado About Nothing : Shakespeare
- Dracula : Stoker
- Sense and Sensibility : Austen
- A Christmas Carol : Dickens
- Writer Inc.: Student Handbook for Writing and Learning

### **Additional Materials**

- In addition to textbooks, students are expected to **bring to class daily**:
- A three ring binder in which all handouts and assignments must be kept
  - A supply of lined paper and pens
  - A reading and writing journal,

### **Grading and Evaluation**

Student work will be assigned a point value and letter grades will be calculated at the end of each 6-week grading period. The **semester grade** will be divided into three categories: 10% homework and class work (being prepared for class: having books, paper, journals, and homework completed and ready to discuss), 30% tests and quizzes, 40% essays and projects and 20% for the final exam. The average grade of assignments in each category becomes the grade for that category. The average grade in each category is the grade for the course.

Missing or late assignments can be turned in throughout the semester as long as the situation meets one of the following:

1. Paper/Essay: May be turned in as many times as the student would like as long as the assignment was turned in on the original due date. If the student turns in a paper past the due date, the opportunity to rework the essay will be lost.
2. Homework assignments may be turned in up until the assignment has been graded and passed back to the rest of the class. Once this happens, no late work will be accepted.
3. Absent: If a student is absent for any reason, it is the student's responsibility to make up the assignments missed within an appropriate amount of time.

## **GRADING SCALE**

|          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|          | B+ 87-89 | C+ 77-79 | D+ 67-69 |
| A 95-100 | B 84-86  | C 74-76  | D 64-66  |
| A- 94-90 | B- 80-83 | C- 70-73 | D- 60-63 |

**Make-up Work: In ALL circumstances it is the student's responsibility to inquire about missed work and set up appointments for make-up tests and quizzes.** Quizzes not made up after 2 school days from absence will automatically be recorded as a score of 0. An unexcused absence on the day ANY assignment or test/quiz is given results in no credit for that assignment.

### **Behavioral Expectations**

- Exercise self discipline, critical thinking, and thoughtful listening
- Demonstrate your desire to learn, ask questions, challenge ideas
- Avoid judgmental, stereotypical language
- Respect your self, your classmates, your teacher, and your school
- No bathroom breaks, except an emergency.
- Check your student handbook for the RULES! If a student is in violation of school rules, they will be held responsible for the consequences set forth by the school.

### **Fall Term Schedule**

The following schedule is an **approximation**. Please note that a longer or shorter time may be allotted, depending on how long it takes us to complete each unit. Additional writing projects will be inserted throughout the semester.

In addition to the activities listed below, students will have weekly quizzes on vocabulary, grammar and literary texts, and a test at the end of each unit.

### **Week One: Introduction to the course; test on summer reading**

#### **Unit One- Why do we read?**

Writing: Personal Essay

#### **Unit Two – Beowulf**

Writing: Analytical essay: generating and organizing ideas and topics; practices with peer and self-editing

#### **Unit Three-The Canterbury Tales**

Writing: Creative Work

**Unit Four – Much Ado About Nothing**  
Performance Piece

**Unit Five –Dracula**

**Unit Six—Sense and Sensibility**

**A Christmas Carol**

**Final Exam**

**\*Please keep the following in your binder at all times  
Please sign, complete, and return this sheet to Ms. Aschinger by  
Monday Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> Credit will be given for completing and returning.**

### Acknowledgement of Course Expectations

Please read the course overview in its entirety and understand the goals, requirements and expectations of course. Please also know that we will be viewing sections of films, which are R rated; please inform me below if this is a problem.

Print Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs/ Notes to  
teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Students signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/**

**GuardianSignature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_