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**Ponderosa High School**

**Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition**

**Course Description**: AP English Lit and Comp is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the Language Arts area. This class challenges critical thinking skills through reading, discussing, analyzing and writing about varied works of literary merit. The course is designed to emphasize skills to aid in passing the AP exam in May. *It is expected that all students will take the AP exam*. College preparation and the scholarship/application process will be highlighted.

**Prerequisites:** Admission to this class requires teacher recommendation, test scores and/or prior grades, and completion of the summer work. I also expect an attitude that is equal to that of a college level class. Completion of this class and passing the AP exam may give you college credit. I expect you to be responsible for your education and treat it with respect!

**Course Reading/assignments**: In addition to the summer reading of *Frankenstein*, *Catcher in the Rye* and assorted poetry, we will be reading *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Hamlet* and other works by Shakespeare, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Bless Me Ultima*, poetry from *Sound and Sense* and selected works from *Literature and Composition*. In addition, every quarter, you will read a novel from the AP list of novels to enrich your knowledge and increase your choices on the AP test writing prompt. Your choices will be assigned with different genres and time periods to cover a wide variety of areas of Literature.

**Course Writing:** We will write approximately 15 – 20 AP prompt essays in preparation for the AP exam. We will also write several formal essays, both on the Literature we study and a College/Scholarship application essay.

**Vocabulary:** We will study and become fluent in both Literature and Poetry terms to improve your skills for the AP exam.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned frequently, mostly in the form of nightly reading, reviewing of assignments and long-term writing/projects. Homework is due at the beginning of the period, unless otherwise specified. Late homework will not be allowed, except in the case of an excused absence. Missing only part of the day does not excuse the homework. If you are on campus at all, homework is due. Email me if you have any issues on homework.

**Expectations:** This is a senior class. You are all becoming adults. I expect adult behavior including (but not limited to): preparedness, respect for all in this class, mature handling of adult themes, and participation. Cheating, copying and plagiarizing will not be tolerated and will result in a zero. You are expected to keep accurate records of your grades. Check with me to confirm your grade at any time. I will try to stay as current as possible on Aeries for you and your parents. We will do a few different assignments than what you may be used to. Go for it. The more you give to these opportunities, the more you will receive. Don’t hold back! Regular attendance is a must! If you miss a class, get the notes and homework from a classmate or email me. Check my website!

**Grading scale:** 90 – 100% =A, 80 – 89% = B, 70 – 79% = C, 60 – 69% = D, 59 % and below = F.

Grades will be based on accumulative scores in Aeries at each grading period, and will reset after first semester. Grades will be based on accumulated earned points.  Tests, quizzes, essays, oral assignments, projects, and participation will be assigned a numerical value.  Each semester grade will be based on the total number of points earned during each of the quarters and the semester final exam points.  The previous scale will be used to determine grades. Make-up work will only be accepted after an excused absence, or a pre-arranged exception with me.

**Availability:**  I am always willing to work individually with students and/or parents after school. Please leave a message on my voice mail or email with any problems or concerns. I check my email regularly during off-school hours and will answer any questions you may have. I look forward to a great AP experience for all of us!

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