

## College Prep English - 11/12th Grade Syllabus

### Course Description

Welcome to Athena's Advanced Academy's College Prep English - 11/12th Grade class! I am excited to begin our year's journey with you, and I hope you will look back at the end of the year with amazement at just how much you have grown.

Athena's upper level self-contained English classes focus on providing students will incremental language arts skills that build in complexity. The classes are taught in a similar format and require similar study skills. In some cases, the classes will also use the some of the same texts providing continuity and promoting review of skills so that returning students can focus on content rather than procedure.

This class will be taught at an 11/12th grade level and is intended to be a capstone to your high school English career. We will cover the full breadth of the subject including vocabulary, grammar, literary analysis, and academic writing. Together we will learn to use literary elements and devices to analyze more complex pieces of literature, use those devices to find a theme, and express that analysis in writing. Analysis, interpretation, and self-expression are universally required in life's pursuits, making English studies a necessary and valuable undertaking. A student who successfully completes this class will be ready for Advanced Placement® English Literature & Composition or a beginning college-level English course.

### Format

Each week we will study literary devices through a broad selection of world poetry, drama, and fiction.

**You will be responsible to look ahead at the coming week and make sure you have read the appropriate material.** During our first 50-minute weekly webinar, we will be discussing as a class what you read and reviewing (analyzing) it in light of either the literary element we are focusing on at the time or other elements that stand out to you. It is important, therefore, that you **stay current on the reading assignments** and **come to class prepared** to offer insights into the material as a class. This is your chance to formulate ideas and create connections. During our second 50-minute weekly webinar, we will focus on your writing skills, first reviewing the basics of persuasive and analytical writing and then adding the basics of literary analytical writing.

### Assignments

#### *Weekly Work*

Every week there will be reading assignments based on the literary element we are discussing that week. **It is important that you stay current on these assignments.** There will also be a short list of vocabulary words and grammar concepts that we will learn and discuss. It is expected that you will find opportunities throughout the year to put these words and concepts into practice to enhance your writing assignments as well as recognize their use in the reading assignments.

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### *Poetry Response Journal*

You will read fiction, drama, and poetry throughout the year and complete the writing assignment for each (further explanation of the assignments will be posted in your classroom). One form—poetry—can be especially challenging because of its concise and creative nature. Therefore, you will be keeping an ongoing personal poetry response journal in which you will choose at least two poems each week and record your emotional, intellectual, and creative feelings during and after reading them. For example, while reading Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken*, you may feel nostalgic and peaceful because of the rhythm and imagery and regretful after reading it because of the poem's theme. This is a simplified response. You will be recording *specific* instances from the poem that evoke your feelings. You will be submitting your journal entries weekly.

### *Essays*

You will be reviewing basic academic essay forms as well as adding a new type as you begin to understand how to express literary analysis in writing. During our second weekly 50-minute webinar, we will review the basics of an academic 5-paragraph persuasive and analytical essays, focusing on creating an understandable and defensible argument with solid and specific proof. Using the skills and development of those essay types, we will move into literary analytical writing. Each paper will follow this 5-week process:

#### **Phase 1**

Prewriting submitted and comments left by the teacher for your review. This prewriting should include your rudimentary research and evidence as well as your organizational plan and thesis, and, in the case of literary analytical writing, a reading response journal.

#### **Phase 2**

First draft submitted and comments on how to improve the draft based on the rubric aspects for that particular essay will be formulated and submitted by you.

#### **Phase 3**

Second draft submitted and comments on how to improve the draft based on the rubric aspects for that particular essay will be formulated and submitted by a partner and left for you.

#### **Phase 4**

Third draft submitted and comments on how to improve the draft based on the rubric aspects for that particular essay will be formulated by the teacher and left for you.

#### **Phase 5**

Final draft submitted. Comments on your paper based on the rubric aspects for that particular essay and on your use of the writing process will be left for you by the teacher. These comments will focus both on your assignment and on how you can improve going forward.

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We will use APA Style for citations, references, and paper formatting. Please see the Purdue Online Writing Lab<sup>1</sup> for further information on APA Style.

### Grading

To prepare you for college pursuits, this course will be graded using a standard percentage. Your final grade will be calculated based on this scale:

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

50-59% F

0-49% No Credit

A rubric will accompany each writing assignment so that you will know the requirements and scores given based on those requirements.

### *Additional Resources*

Each week, in addition to our exploration of literary terms and literary concepts using your text, you will also be provided with various resources. These resources are intended to be helpful for those with different learning styles and provide useful summaries that you can keep to use in the future. You also have access to Athena's Academic Writing Resources Room that is full of resources to help with academic writing assignments.

The purpose for these additional resources is to provide information multiple formats so as to reach all learning styles and help students and their families reach their individual goals. Excepting the Vocabulary.com and Study.com assignments, the remaining resources offered are optional. Some can be quite interesting and useful, so be sure to explore them.

### *Weekly Activities*

Both Vocabulary.com and Study.com will track student use, and the following scale will be used to grade these assignments:

70-100% completed - A

50-69% completed - B

30-49% completed - C

0-29% completed - D

In addition to these activities, your final grade will also include the following activities:

- Attendance and participation (noted in a weekly rubric)
- Vocabulary quizzes assigned every fourth week
- Weekly grammar assignments and periodic quizzes

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<sup>1</sup> <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>

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- Writing Assignments - evaluative grades are only given on final drafts. Prewriting, preparatory drafts, and peer reviews are graded on a complete/not complete basis.

### **Late Assignments**

Work will be dropped 5% for each week it is late. *Essay workshops*, however, because the phases build on a previous phase and because other students will depend on your reviews to complete their work, ***cannot be turned in past the deadline***. If you and your parents wish to discuss a reason for a late assignment and a need for a grace period, I am very happy to talk with you on an individual basis.

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### Materials

Analytical Grammar: The British Authors - High School Grammar Reinforcement — Student Workbook<sup>2</sup>

**Digital or Physical Edition**

ASIN: B008SXCVP5

Publisher: Analytical Grammar

Analytical Grammar: A Systematic Approach to Language Mastery — Student Workbook<sup>3</sup>

**Digital or Physical Edition**

ASIN: B00tQWBE9O

Publisher: Analytical Grammar (1996)

*The Norton Introduction to Literature (Shorter Twelfth Edition)*<sup>4</sup>

ISBN-13: 978-0393623567

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; **12th edition (November 4, 2016)\*\***

***[Purchase this edition only]***

*The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*<sup>5</sup>

Ross C. Murfin & Supryia M. Ray

ISBN-13: 978-1319035396

Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's; **Fourth edition (December 29, 2017)\*\***

***[Purchase this edition only]***

*Six Characters in Search of an Author*<sup>6</sup> (any publisher)

Luigi Pirandello

ISBN-13: 978-0486299921

Publisher: Dover Publications (1997)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.analyticalgrammar.com/product/hs-reinforcement-british-authors-digital/> - OR - <https://www.analyticalgrammar.com/product/high-school-reinforcement-british-authors/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.analyticalgrammar.com/product/extra-analytical-grammar-workbook-digital/> -OR - <https://www.analyticalgrammar.com/product/extra-analytical-grammar-workbook/>

<sup>4</sup> [books.wwnorton.com/books/webad.aspx?id=4294993395](https://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad.aspx?id=4294993395) —OR— [https://www.amazon.com/Norton-Introduction-Literature-Shorter-Twelfth-ebook/dp/B01N5HHUTY/ref=mt\\_kindle?\\_encoding=UTF8&me=](https://www.amazon.com/Norton-Introduction-Literature-Shorter-Twelfth-ebook/dp/B01N5HHUTY/ref=mt_kindle?_encoding=UTF8&me=)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.macmillanlearning.com/Catalog/product/bedfordglossaryofcriticalliteraryterms-fourthedition-murfin> - OR- <https://www.amazon.com/Bedford-Glossary-Critical-Literary-Terms/dp/1319035396>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/Characters-Search-Author-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486299929/>