

“The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life.”
--Plato

“What is the highest of all goods? . . . The many do not give the same account as the wise.”
--Aristotle

“Life is difficult. . . . Once we truly know that life is difficult—once we truly understand and accept it—then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters.”
--M. Scott Peck

The function of this course is to build skills introduced in Honors English 9 and to prepare students for the Advanced Placement English curriculum here at Canyon Crest Academy. Honors English 10 will provide students with various philosophical and literary lenses through which we may analyze and interpret major texts of world literature. Though the primary curriculum is based upon canonical works of literature, attention is also given to analytical and scholarly forms of interpretation, including the reading of and interaction with professional works of academic criticism. While passing attention is given to new historical and postmodern theoretical schools of thought, the primary means of interpretation will be close reading and stylistic analysis.

While covering diverse works of literature, students will also explore various philosophical schools of thought, tracing the evolution and development of major subjects of Western civilization, such as truth, knowledge, justice, individual responsibility, virtue, social identity and culture. At the conclusion of the course, students will submit their own philosophical treatises, delineating and justifying their own perspectives on these various subjects. Furthermore, strict attention to the proper crafting and execution of student-generated thesis papers will be given, and, as in any advanced English class, students will be expected to go beyond mere plot summary, exploring deeply the philosophical perspectives and implications contained within and conveyed by particular texts.

In addition to reading and writing about the literature, students may have opportunities to create visual and musical explorations of course content. In some instances, students should be prepared to work collaboratively, however, most major projects and exams will be graded on an individual basis. Emphasis will also be placed upon the formation of habits of self-discipline in order to ensure success in high school, college, and beyond.

Students should be prepared to read and annotate 30-40 pages of literature in preparation for each class period. Class time will be dedicated to discussion of readings as well as guidance and preparation of individual and group projects. A premium is placed upon students' burgeoning ability to discuss literature intelligently, and all students are expected to contribute meaningfully to class discussions of the literary and philosophical material. Quizzes, declamations, timed writings, and major essays may also be expected. Students will be coached to develop goal-setting, time management, and interdisciplinary skills.

All written assignments are due at the beginning of the period and **no late work is accepted!** If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to get the work assigned and information covered during his or her absence. Students have the total number of days absent plus one to complete and turn in make-up work. After that, make-up work will no longer be accepted. **Students are NOT required to purchase any books for this course, although many students prefer to have their own private copies in which to annotate.** Laptop computers and tablets are not required

for the course, although many students find these forms of technology useful to access reading assignments that are online and for researching specific topics during class discussions and lectures.

Classroom Behavior: This is an honors level course and students are expected to behave accordingly. Any disrespect towards other students or staff will be dealt with according to policy set forth by San Dieguito Union High School District.

Grading: Grades are determined traditionally by the percentage of points acquired out of the total points possible for the course:

100%-90% = A 89-80% = B 79-70% = C 69-60% = D 59-0% = F

Plagiarism/Cheating: Plagiarism is the use of any idea or phrasing of an idea traceable to a single source without proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism is also turning in someone else's work as one's own or supplying one's work to another student for him or her to use. Cheating is copying another student's homework or classwork, quiz, and test answers from other students with or without their permission, and copying information from websites without proper citation. At no point during the course will students be asked to refer to "other" materials than those specifically listed for this course. **Referencing Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes, Monarch Notes, or any written or online source other than those listed on the reading schedule or suggested from class lecture or discussion for this course is considered cheating and will be punished with a zero for the particular assignment and referral to school administration.** Please refer to the Academic Honesty Contract on my website.

Materials required for every class period:

1. Red, blue, and black pens; 1 or more colored hi-liters
2. Text(s) being studied
3. All handouts
4. English binder with dividers
5. Hole-punch

I look forward to a fast-paced and stimulating term in which we will grow as students and people. And while we should always keep before us the words of Heraclitus—"Much learning does not teach understanding"—we should also remember Aristotle's words—"The activity of philosophic wisdom is admittedly the pleasantest of all virtuous activities." I am excited to get started; I hope you are too!

Please sign and return this sheet.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date