English 11 AP Syllabus  
Mrs. Mello  
LA7  
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DELANO HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 2014-2015

This course will follow the curricular requirements as established by the College Board in the AP Literature and Composition Course Description which focuses on building skills necessary for college-level reading and writing. The texts studied will include works from a variety of time periods and genres, and the writing assignments will include in-class essays as well formal process which allow for revision. This is considered a college-level course which means you will be asked to read and analyze challenging, provocative, dense, and sometimes controversial material. You will also be expected to come to class prepared to challenge yourself and others with interesting discussion points.

Students will compose numerous pieces, both in and out of class. Compositions vary widely in approach to give ample experience in different types of writing. ***Writing assignments are to be handed in on time -- no late papers will be accepted for any reason.***

Group and individual presentations are important opportunities for students to teach their peers. Because this course is student-focused, class participation is a daily requirement.

All students are expected to take the AP exam in May 2015. The exam offers you the opportunity to earn college-credits.

Class Texts (All of the following will be provided to students, although students are strongly encouraged to purchase their own copies for note taking, etc):

Arp, Thomas R. *Perrine’s Structure, Sound and Sense.*

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness  
Foster,* Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor.*

Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedy of Hamlet.*

Wollstonecraft Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein.*

Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.*

*Vocabulary Workbook (Level F)*

*Also several poems and other texts will be covered and discussed.*

**EXPECTATIONS**

Please be aware that this will be a very challenging course. It will be taught just like a college class with many demands and more outside of class assignments than a regular English class. Due to this fact, there are a few rules that must be adhered to:

1. No Whining in Advanced Placement. You are here because you are the best and brightest that DHS has to offer. “With a great gift comes great responsibility.” At the end of this year you will be exhausted but you will also have learned some valuable skills that will help you as you continue your education. A student who complains about the workload is usually a student who is not ready for the rigor of the AP class. You need to decide what type of student you are before you decide to enroll.
2. Participation is essential. You will be required to speak up and share your insights and your questions with the class. Some days, you will be asked to work in small groups, some days you may be required to teach the class. Other days you will need to raise your hand to make a comment.
3. Attendance: The more days of class you miss, the less you will learn. In college courses, the instructor does not back up or slow down to accommodate for students who have been absent. If you must miss a class for any reason it will be your responsibility to make up any missed notes or assignments. If you are absent on the day a standing assignment is due, you will not be allowed to turn it in late unless in the event of an emergency. You have many different ways you can get that assignment to me: Email, via a parent or a friend, or you can turn it in early. If you are involved in outside activities, please be aware that field trips, sports-related absences, or any other reasons for absences are included. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Grading: The grade scale is as follows:

Tests/Quizzes 15%

Participation 25%

Homework 25%

Essays 35%

I will periodically post grades to keep you informed as to where you stand in the class and I am always willing to go over your grades with you before school, after school, or at lunch. DO NOT approach me during class to ask about your grade. Wait until the end of class and I will let you know when we can discuss it. PLEASE don’t ignore your grade until the end of the grading period and then come to ask why you are failing. It is your responsibility to keep track of what your grade is in the class.

1. **Cheating/plagiarism:** (See Student Handbook) Cheating includes the following: copying someone else’s work and turning it in as your own, looking at another student’s test/quiz, turning in a paper that you turned in for another class, buying a paper from another source and claiming you wrote it, taking something from the internet and cutting and pasting it into your paper without proper MLA documentation (both in-text citation and bibliographic citation), turning in a paper written for another class (even if it was written by you), changing an answer on another student’s paper with their permission or not, and giving your work to another student and allowing them to copy off of you. A good rule of thumb to keep in mind to avoid plagiarism is if three words in a row are used in your paper and if those words are not original to you the source MUST be cited. DHS’ policy on cheating includes an immediate phone call to your parents, work detail and Saturday school, and a comment placed in your school file. I will issue a referral to anyone caught cheating in my class and you will fail that assignment without the opportunity to make it up. In the case of an essay that has been plagiarized from another student, both students will fail the essay with no chance for a make-up assignment. Be careful who you allow to look at your work. There is no reason for any student to plagiarize or cheat on any assignment and it is up to you to familiarize yourself with the appropriate ways to document sources. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Computer issues:** Many assignments include a requirement that they must be typed. If you do not have access to a computer, please make arrangements ahead of time to type out these assignments and print them out. I cannot be held responsible for printers that run out of ink or computers that suddenly are taken over by aliens. Please make every effort to come to class prepared to turn the assignment in. If you cannot print out your assignment, you can place it in the class DropBox folder. If you need to print something out, make time to do so at least 15 minutes before school. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Late Work** I do not accept late work on standing assignments. I give you the due dates in advance so if you discover that you will be absent on the due date for a standing assignment you need to get that assignment to me earlier. If you become ill or have an emergency on a due date, you or your parent must contact me via email or a phone message BEFORE school starts that day or you can send the assignment with a friend. Please be responsible and plan ahead. \_\_\_\_I will accept small homework assignments late if you were absent on the day it was assigned. These must be turned in the next day. \_\_\_\_\_NOTE: All assignments are due at the beginning of the class. If you come in late (with or without a pass) I will not accept your assignment. \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Outside of class reading assignments:** As a requirement of this class you are expected to read two outside of class texts each semester. The texts you choose to read must be something that has ***not*** been read in another class. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ After reading each book, you will be asked to fill out a Short Form which asks you various questions about what you read. You will be given a list of books to choose from.

Short Form 1 due: September 19, 2014

Short Form 2 due: November 14, 2014

Short Form 3 due on February 13, 2015

Short Form 4 due on April 3, 2015

9. **Semester Project (Long Form):** You will be completing a Long Form on one poem/novel of your choice from the approved list of readings from the College Board. One Long Form will be due at the end of the first semester and one at the end of the second semester. We will go over these requirements in class.

Long Form 1 due: December 5, 2014

Long Form 2 due: May 1, 2015

10. **Standing Assignments:** I may not assign homework every night but you will have Standing Assignments which you will be responsible for. These assignments include the Short Forms, Long Forms, Red Sheets, and vocabulary. I give you the due dates for these assignments weeks in advance and I expect that you will keep track of them on your own. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Miscellaneous:**

* ✓  Composition Format: All out-of-class-essays must be typed. They should be double-spaced with standard margins, Times-New Roman or Arial fonts only. At the top right of the first page: name, class period, due date, assignment name and instructor name. All successive pages have your last name and page number at the top upper right-hand corner. Essays may be e-mailed to lmello@djuhsd.org AND mellolynnette@gmail.com. **Please do not put your essay inside the text of your email. Attach it as a Word document. You can also place your essay into the class DropBox folder. We will go over how to set up your DropBox in class.**
* ✓  *Two valuable bits of advice: keep a copy of each essay and always have a written rough draft of some type.* Many tears have been shed over computers which have crashed, wiping out days worth of work.
* ✓  All in-class essays, including timed writings, must be in ink, with the appropriate heading at top right of each page. Please skip lines and write on only one side of the paper.
* ✓  Extra Credit is not offered in an AP class but you will be given 4 hall passes that can be used to make up a missed quiz or a low grade. Each pass is worth 10 points and can be turned in at the end of the semester.
* ✓  You will not be asked to turn in a portfolio as part of your grade but I do require you to bring a binder to class with you every day in which you keep all assignments, handouts, etc.
* Text Alerts: If you have a cell phone or a tablet with texting capabilities, you can sign up to receive text alerts and reminders from me. Parents and students have found this very helpful. I don’t send out a lot of alerts—one a week or so. To sign up, text 585-245-0333 and in the text body put @mellol.

This syllabus may be changed as needed. Keep a copy of this in your portfolio

I have read the above and agree to follow the guidelines outlined.

Student Signature:

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Parent/Guardian Signature:

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Updated 04/02/2014