Peters Township High School  
Course Syllabus: Academic English 10

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| Course Information | Teacher Information |
| Course Length: Full Year  Class Location: 128  Teacher Website: duffy10.weebly.com | Name: Mrs. Gina Duffy  Phone: 724.941.6250 ext. 5357  Email: duffyg@pt-sd.org |

**Course Overview and Essential Skills**

Throughout the year in Academic English 10, we will concentrate on strengthening critical reading skills by close reading literature selections in a variety of genres including short stories, novels, plays, essays, and poetry. An emphasis will be placed upon strengthening analytical reading skills. Additionally, we will focus on developing writing skills by composing analytical and creative paragraphs and essays. Focused grammatical concepts, rhetorical strategies, and MLA standards will be incorporated into writing assignments. In addition, students will practice and apply the following skills:

* Read with greater understanding and appreciation of short stories, essays, novels, plays, and poems.
* Discuss and appreciate the literary significance of such classic works as Homer’s *The Odyssey*, Sophocles’s *Antigone*, Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar*,* Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*, Zusak’s *The Book Thief*, and J. D. Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*.
* Think and analyze critically.
* Write more accurately, effectively, and confidently in a variety of styles and formats.
* Discuss the importance of literary elements and literary/rhetorical devices such as plot, character, irony, theme, point of view, and symbolism.
* Understand how rhetorical strategies are used in literature and in the real world.
* Develop an enriched vocabulary and a greater appreciation for exact diction.
* Express himself/herself orally with increased clarity and willingness

**Course Required Texts**

Supplemental Texts

*Elements of Literature Fourth Course*

**Suggested Materials:**

* A three-ringed binder (1 ½ in.) for your English notebook
* A traditional composition notebook or a 1-subject spiral notebook
* 3x5 notecards

**Teacher Grading Policy:**

* Quarter grade will represent a cumulative total of points for all tests, quizzes, and essays, as well as homework, class work, and class participation.
* Tests and major writing assignments will be worth 50 to 100 points each. Quizzes and smaller writing assignments will be worth 10 to 50 points eachvarying with the length and complexity of the assignment.
* Late submissions of homework or larger assignments (e.g., compositions, projects, reports, etc.) will be penalized 10% of total possible points per each class day late. Late assignments that exceed one week of the original due date will receive a zero. In addition, some assignments are designated “all or nothing,”which means that they must be completed by the due date or no credit will be given (e.g., bringing materials to class or being prepared for class with rough drafts of composition, etc.).
* Grades for in class assignments, nightly homework, quizzes, and class participation will be updated on a weekly basis. Scores for longer assignments such as written exams, essays, journals, and research papers may take up to 2-3 weeks past due date to appear in Powerschool. **Students are encouraged to access Power School regularly to check their grades**.

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. **Be punctual.** Be in the room, seated and prepared **before the late bell sounds.** Typically class will begin with a journal entry or another focus activity designed to frame the expectations and focus for the day.

2. **Be prepared.** This means you must bring pens, paper, texts, and homework to class daily. Complete homework before coming to class on the date it is due. Studying and reading are also required preparation.

3. **Be present.** If for any reason you cannot attend school, it is your responsibility to make up any missed work. Make-up work will be accepted according to the policies established in the *PTHS* *Student Handbook*. You have one day for each day you were absent to complete missed assignments. This does not include long-range assignments. They are due on the assigned date. Also, this does not include class missed due to late arrivals or sports activities. If you are present at school any time during the school day when a paper / project is due, the assignment must be submitted that day. Tests and quizzes missed because of a legally excused absence shall be made up on the next school day. If the test is not made up within one week, a grade of zero will be recorded. Individual arrangements for make-up work due to extended, legally excused absences should be made. Check the weekly materials folder for your class when you return from any absence, and see me if you have any questions. Good communication is key! Also, use our class website at **duffy10.weebly.com** as a tool to stay on track while you are away from class.

4. **Be organized**. Maintain a complete notebook. Keep study guides, notes, handouts, assignments, etc. organized. Bring your notebook and journal to class every day!

5. **Be attentive and inquisitive** -- be willing to participate in class discussions. Be respectful to everyone in the classroom at all times. Enthusiastic discussions will enrich learning. Everyone is expected to participate in discussions in English!

6. **Be respectful**. Try to have an open mind and realize other people may have different opions and life experiences than you do**.** Be mindful of how you argue or present ideas**.** Through reading a variety of American literature that celebrates life, spanning from the Colonial Era to the 21st Century, we will learn more about ourselves and the world around us.

**Honor Code**

All academic work in this course follows the Academic Integrity policy of the Peters Township School District.  Students are expected to maintain the Peters Township Honor Code:  As a student of Peters Township School District, I recognize the value of my own learning and pledge to maintain honesty and academic integrity in all that I do.  All work that I submit is my own.  Any student that is unsure of the expectations of an assignment should seek clarification from the teacher.

**Name : (print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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

**I have read and understand the information contained in the course packet.**

**Questions/concerns? Please use the space below to write them.**