

SYLLABUS FOR
10th Grade Pre-AP English – 2007-08
Union Intermediate High School – Mrs. Ayn Grubb
grubb.ayn@unionps.org
461-4269

Course Description

The focus of English 10 is American Literature, with a special emphasis on composition. We'll strengthen our critical thinking skills, and we'll do some things to prepare for next year's AP Language course. I believe that all students think and that my job is to help you to think more clearly.

What to Expect:

Successful Pre-AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers who prioritize their time and have parental support in their educational endeavors. While quality of material and instruction is stressed over quantity, students and parents should be aware that this course does include more units covered at a faster pace than a regular class.

The Pre-AP Difference

In my classroom, most of what makes a Pre-AP class different from the non-Pre-AP class is the level of discussion that comes from the students. Much of what happens in my class will be discussion among students, guided by the teacher. I might bring the same piece of literature to three different classes in one day, but I will still do three very different things in all three classes because the students will take the discussion to different places.

Since I believe that the learning happens in the struggle, I will bring my students a problem and ask them to solve it. Each different class might come up with a different solution to the same problem. The solution itself is not really what we're after. It's the learning that happens as students work together to find the best solution they can. It's the learning that comes when we have to offer evidence in support of our ideas. So it might appear as if my classes are often doing the same things, but each group of students—whether it's a Pre-AP group or not—has a different personality and a different chemistry all its own.

Another Difference

Because sophomores will be taking their first AP English class next year (AP Language and Composition in the junior year) we will spend some time looking at the AP Exam. We will analyze examples of non-fiction and do some exercises designed to help us prepare for the newest question on the AP Language Exam: the synthesis question.

Hallmarks and Standards

- Develop an effective writing style focusing on word choice, sentence structure, and organization.
- Revise writing to improve cohesiveness and coherency.
- Practice making a claim and supporting it with evidence.
- Utilize time management skills.
- Relate a specific literary selection to personal experience.
- Recognize literary devices and analyze how they reveal the story's development and message.

Evaluation Procedures

- Written work in **final draft format** must be neat and legible, written in cursive in blue or black ink on one side of the notebook paper, OR typed in 12-point Times New Roman with one inch margins.
- Papers must have a proper and complete heading **at all times**.
 - First name last name
 - Mrs. Grubb
 - English 10 (Hour)
 - Day Month year (16 August 2006)
- **NO** copies of assignments will be accepted. Plagiarism of any kind is NOT tolerated.
- Content, punctuation, grammar, spelling, and form are standards of grading all written work.
- Grading Categories and Weights

○ Assignments	30%	○ Semester Final	10%
○ Writing	15%		
○ Tests, Projects	30%		
○ Participation	15%		
- Grading Scale

○ A = 89.5% - 100%	○ D = 69.4% - 59.5%
○ B = 79.5% - 89.4%	○ F = 59.4% and below
○ C = 79.4% - 69.5%	

Attendance and Tardy Policy

- Students who miss more than 10 unexcused days per semester may fail this class for that semester.
- Tardiness is **NOT** tolerated and will be dealt with according to school policy.
 - 1st Tardy – written warning and NO DETENTION
 - 2nd Tardy – four lunch detentions
 - 3rd Tardy – P.M. detention (2 hours)
 - 4th Tardy – referral to the office of the student’s Assistant Principal

Homework and Make-up Work

- Students get **ONE** day to complete work for each day absent. All make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Students must make arrangements outside of instructional time.
- If a student is not absent, s/he will receive 50% credit the day after it is due. I will give no credit for work turned in more than one day late.
- Most assignments will be available online, and I’ll expect students to make use of this whenever possible.
- **When a due date of a major project/paper is announced at least ONE week in advance, the student is responsible for having the assignment in on time. Being absent from school on the due date of a long-term assignment does NOT constitute an additional day without penalty.**

Extra Credit

- Students are encouraged to read multiple types of media. To help them understand the importance of careful, accurate writing, I reward extra credit for finding mistakes in print. Students may find 15 mistakes per quarter. To earn the points, they must highlight and correct the mistake before turning it in for credit. Each mistake earns 3 points, for a potential 45 extra credit points per quarter.
- Students receive 4 passes per semester to be used at their discretion (locker, bathroom, etc.). No other passes will be issued. When the student uses all 4 passes, s/he will NOT be allowed to leave the classroom. Those students who have passes left over at the end of the semester will receive 3 extra credit points per pass to be added to their final exam grade.

THE FIVE R’S

- **RESPECT:** Be respectful of other people and their things. Keep the classroom neat and clean. Do your personal grooming, such as combing hair or applying makeup, elsewhere.
- **RESPONSIBLE:** Turn in your work and take own up to what you’ve done. Keep up with your things.
- **READY:** Be in your seat ready to work **when the tardy bell RINGS**. Bring all of the supplies that you will need for class—books, papers, pens, etc.
- **REASON:** Think. Use common sense. Imagine the consequences of your action before you act. Remember that intelligence grows with use.
- **REACH:** Push yourself. Expect more of yourself than you have in the past. Understand that it might take more than one try. Do it on your own.

Other answers...because someone will ask

- Do not bring gum, food, or candy, into the classroom.
- You may bring a bottle of water.
- Check out <http://www.mrsgrubb.com> for more information.

Required Purchase

I’ll choose our novels from the following list. You might be required to purchase one each semester, but I’ll let you know in advance.

	NOVELS	PLAYS
<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	<i>Dandelion Wine</i>	<i>The Crucible</i>
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	<i>In Cold Blood</i>	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i>	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>
<i>The Joy Luck Club</i>	<i>The Five People You...</i>	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	<i>Ethan Frome</i>	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>
<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	

Outside Reading

Students will also read one selection per semester outside of class. The literary selection will be chosen by the students from a list provided by the teachers. This assignment will help them to continue their preparation for the AP Language and (especially) AP Literature Exams.