

Horizon English I pre-AP Course Syllabus
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This course is designed to prepare students not only for successful completion of the English End-of-Course Exam, but for eventual successful completion of Horizon AP English courses. Toward that end, the level of rigor expected for the course is over and above that which is to be expected for a 9th grade honors-level course. Students are required to come prepared daily with all necessary materials, to have read in preparation for the day's discussion, and to complete all assignments in a quality and timely manner. Some readings will be from the Literature textbook assigned at the beginning of the year, some will be student-purchased, and some excerpts will be provided by the instructor. Reading selections are closely correlated to the content of the students' World History course as well as Biology in order to supplement and build upon connections among the disciplines. Some assignments will be completed in collaboration with the other Horizon course assignments in order to reinforce standards and skills for future success.

A brief overview of the course plan follows, including planned connections to Biology and World History. In order to adapt assignments and reading selections according to the needs of the class, not all texts will be listed here. Vocabulary development will be done in context of each reading, plus SAT-preparatory selections. Grammar instruction is a near-daily occurrence depending on the needs of the class. Literary element identification, application and analysis is an ongoing, spiraling process in order to prepare the students for AP English classes. Direct instruction in the writing process is also a daily event – some days more intensive than others! Since Horizon is an interdisciplinary program, students are expected to learn and know material from each of their Horizon classes in order to be prepared for English, for Biology, and for History, as each instructor will make reference to and use examples from each other's course content.

This is not a comprehensive list, however:

1st quarter:-Ecology and Energy - Beginnings

Main Topics – agrarian society, food and population, academic tone, voice and word choice; nonfiction writing; Africa, Middle East, Fertile Crescent, Indus River Valley, Pakistan, India, Nile River Valley, China, one-child policy, inertia; human migration

Learning Strategies:

SOAPSTone analysis –how to read and decipher a nonfiction text

Marking up a text – paying attention to headers, italics, connotation, denotation

Identifying the effect of rhetorical devices – basics of logos, pathos and ethos

Multi-entry journals

Non-Fiction readings:

Edith Hamilton's Mythology (entire book)

Sacred text and myth selections from Literature textbook and other resources

Adler's "How to Mark a Book" essay (conversion to the practice of marking in a book)

Lewis Thomas – grammar/science essay "Lives of a Cell"

Jared Diamond's "Worst Mistake" essay (food and population)

Oliver Sachs – selections from Island of the Color-Blind

Sun Tzu – selections from Art of War

Michael Pollan – selections from The Botany of Desire – intro and apple section

Bill Bryson’s Intro from A Short History of Nearly Everything

Fiction Readings:

Nectar in a Sieve – Markandala

Short stories from Literature textbook

Writings: (main assignments listed – there will be MANY more ad hoc)

Comparative Mythology research essay (2-4 pgs)

Essays modeled after nonfiction essays

Journal responses

2nd quarter —Structure and Function

Main Topics: Europe’s development, guilds, grammar and sentence diagramming – cell structure – atoms- molecules; Greece and Rome

Learning Strategies:

Double-entry journals,

OPTIC (how to read a visual text)

Mind maps and concept maps – graphic organizers - QuickWrites

Fiction Readings (and corresponding writings)–

Odyssey – annotated bibliography research project (15 entries)

Beowulf – epic hero comparison (visual text presentation)

Canterbury Tales – hyperlinked Nun’s Priest’s Tale (present in groups – linked on wiki)

3rd quarter –Island Study –

Main Topics: culture, population, flora and fauna language development on islands; genetics and genetic drift, diseases, sickle cell, anemia, malaria, Colonial Africa; dialect and code-shifting, connotation, denotation, effect of logos, ethos and pathos on an author’s argument

Strategies:

MLA and APA documentation styles; Expert groups; Lit Circles groups

Reciprocal teaching, reciprocal writing, written conversations, Blackboard-hosted wikis and blogs

Research project – mini-senior-project style – 8-10p research paper (plus visual/oral presentation due 4th 9 weeks)

Fiction Readings:

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe -

Romeo and Juliet / Midsummer Night’s Dream readings and staging/ comparative reading

Anthem – Ayn Rand

Non-fiction readings:

Selections from Island of the Color Blind

Selections from Botany of Desire

“My Turn” essays from Newsweek Magazine

Selections from Bill Bryson’s A Short history of Nearly Everything

[optional HZ trip to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales – March 2009]

4th quarter - How Things Change

Main Topics: evolution of culture, eugenics movements/Hitler, biological changes including, skin color, discrimination; reproduction ecology II, rhetoric of change, effect of persuasive appeals on consumer behavior; advertising and propaganda techniques

Learning Strategies:

Socratic discussions, Admit/exit slips, developing a Readers Theatre

Non-fiction readings;

Sherman Alexie: “Superman and Me”

Excerpts from The Greatest Generation – pair up with McLeod’s iLink students’ projects

Excerpts from The Things They Carried

“My Turn” articles (from *Newsweek* magazine) regarding technology and change – how technological changes affect language and culture

Fiction Readings:

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

The Bomb – by Theodore Taylor re: Bikini Atoll testing

Field Study – HOTLANTA! May 6-9, 2009 - tentative itinerary

(leave Wed lunch and be back late Sat PM)

Backstage tour of Center for Disease Control – mock “outbreak” activity

College tour – Emory University (plus art museum)

Concert or performance (?) at the Fox Theatre

Art exhibits at the High Museum of Art

CNN – backstage tour of TV studio

Carter Center library and exhibits

Fernbank Science museum – IMAX Theater, Natural Science museum exhibits

Braves Game if we can work it in – inertia, trajectory, anthropological study of crowds...

Atlanta Renaissance Faire

May: review for End of Course test; SAT-style grammar review and composition development; poetry analysis and explication

Texts: Larry Mills workshop SAT preparation manual and guide, online grammar course (http://dianahacker.com/pocket/gm_menu.asp) ; poetry selections as chosen by instructor and students