CONTACT INFORMATION: I am generally available to meet with students before school in Room 260 and during free periods, or after school by appointment. Students are welcome to email me with questions as well.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
“An AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work’s structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone” (The College Board, English Literature and Composition Course Introduction).

Together we will explore many different pieces of text, learn how to perform close readings, develop the skills to move beyond plot analysis, and become critical readers and thinkers. While our end goal is to achieve a qualifying score on the AP Exam, this class is not going to teach to the test. Although we will prepare for the exam, our main focus will be to become better readers and writers. We will learn the skills necessary not only for the AP Exam, but for a life-long relationship with critical reading and writing.

AP English Literature and Composition will be structured as a workshop in which all participants will be expected to share their reading reflections and analysis of assigned passages with the class. By reading published critical essays on the texts we read, applying ideas from How to Read Literature Like a Professor, and evaluating our skills through Critical Reading and Writing Process Journals, we will develop our ability to read literature critically. Through close rereading, peer and student-teacher conferences, and actively analyzing and revising our own work, we will learn how to develop and refine meaningful claims about literature.

ATTENDANCE
Participation in class discussions of text is the best way to grow as a critical reader and writer; therefore, chronic absences will severely inhibit your ability to be successful in this class. While attendance is not officially part of your grade, class discussions will be evaluated for participation points and cannot be made up. Please, do your best to stay rested and healthy!

REQUEST FOR ABSENT WORK
If you are absent from class, you must contact your teacher via the e-mail address at the top of the syllabus to obtain the materials and assignments missed during your absence.
LEARNER OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students will be able to
1. Carefully read works of fiction to analyze structure, shifts, style, tone, and themes
2. Consider the social and historical values reflected in a work of literature
3. Evaluate an author’s use of literary elements and devices to achieve a purpose
4. Construct clear, well-reasoned arguments about both familiar and unfamiliar texts
5. Analyze and effectively communicate how writers from the 16th century to the present use language to construct meaning and provide pleasure through novels, drama, and poetry
6. Create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience
7. Demonstrate mastery of standard written English and stylistic maturity through use of a variety of sentence structures and effective vocabulary
8. Participate fully in all phases of the writing process for all types of essays including prewriting, drafting, peer and student-teacher conferencing, revising, and editing

GRADE CATEGORIES
CLWK Daily Assignments and Activities 15%
MAJO Major Assignments 60%
TEST Critical Reading/Process Writing/Vocabulary Journal Conferences 25%

GRADING SCALE
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59 and below

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
The Grant Community High School English Department believes that academic integrity is an integral part of the learning process. We expect students to formulate and express original ideas and hone their critical thinking skills. If academic dishonesty occurs, the student will earn a zero for the assigned work and forfeit the opportunity to make up the assignment. Teachers will also file an academic dishonesty report with the principal.

To hinder such behavior, all students will be required to submit all major writing assignments to turnitin.com. If a student does not turn his or her work into the said plagiarism service, the student will receive a zero for the assignment until the work has been submitted to turnitin.com.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR
In addition to all Grant High School rules outlined in the Student Handbook, students are expected to:

G – Get to class on time and prepared.
R – Respect yourself and others.
A – Actively participate in academic life,
N – Never give less than your best.
T – Take responsibility for your actions,

Further specific course information is available on the Addendum for this class.