**Syllabus 2019—20**

**Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition with Mr. Bah**

Students, please share this with your guardian.

Contact Mr. Bah: abah@tamdistrict.org

Mr. Bah’s website (sometimes useful): Mrbah.com. See the disclaimer on the homepage.

**READING:**

**First Semester**

* **Introductory Poetry Unit** (Additional poetry throughout the semester)
* ***The Secret Sharer*** byJoseph Conrad(August, September)
* ***Invisible Man***by Ralph Ellison (October, November)
* ***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** by Zora Neale Hurston (November, December)

**Second Semester**

* ***Jane Eyre***by Charlotte Bronte (January, February)
* **Metaphysical and Carpe Diem Poetry** (and various additional poetry )(February, March)
* ***Hamlet***by William Shakespeare (March, April)
* ***Ethan Frome***by Edith Wharton (Time permitting, or a possible “long weekend” or holiday novella.)

**Second Semester, after the AP Examination**

* **TBA (possible additional novel)**

**The above “dates/months” are approximate. More specific reading schedules and calendars are provided when we begin longer units.**

**The analysis of additional Poetry and Short Fiction will be integrated throughout both semesters.**

**Changes may be made in the planned reading as needed.**

Students should note that they will be reading about one novel or play per month during the first semester, and though the schedule seems more relaxed during the second semester, be advised that the works we read then are very challenging. When we add poetry and short fiction to the reading, this course becomes quite demanding, so students should anticipate and designate reading time in their daily schedules.

Students may be asked to read during holidays. Students can read ahead, but should see me to discuss this.

I give frequent multiple choice, matching, or short essay reading quizzes to give students a strong incentive to keep up with the reading.

**WRITING:**

Most of the writing students do for this course is literary analysis of speaker/narrator, character, symbol, setting, scene, whole work, theme or author’s purpose. Most of the writing students do for this class will be done in class, by hand—why? I am more interested that students demonstrate what they know and can figure out than in what they can look up online. Also, the AP English Literature Exam is still a timed, on-demand, “in-class” test, the essay being written by hand unless a student has an accommodation for an alternative testing method.

The few take-home essays I assign will be turned in thru Turnitin.com.

Students will write for class, formally or informally, 2 or 3 times per month.

**THE AP EXAM:**

The AP English Literature Examination tests and reflects traditional English Literature class skills, so all class work is preparation for the exam. Whether or not students plan to take the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination in May, students will take AP practice tests, and AP styled unit finals; semester finals may consist, all or in part, of a released AP examination.

Conversely, this is a Literature course until the end of the year, so even students who take the AP exam are not exempt from studying, and being tested on, literature assigned in April, May and June. And, for no one does the semester end with Spring Break.

The Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination is on May 6th.

The deadline for signing up for AP exams has been moved up. Students should plan to sign up for AP exams in October (or sooner).

Please see the letter to students regarding my expectations for student behavior and work in this course. (A link to it is available on MrBah.com.)

Students will need to bring to class everyday

* Handouts or assigned books
* Two pens, standard blue or black (You might want erasable pens)
* Loose leaf paper in a binder
* Post-its
* Highlighters

Best wishes for the coming school year.
Mr. Bah