



ATYP HONORS ENGLISH 11 & 12 SYLLABUS

Location: 3520 Sangren Hall
Time: Thursdays 1:20-3:50pm
Instructor: Morgan Shiver (She/Her)
Contact: morgan.p.shiver@wmich.edu



“Stories can conquer fear, you know. They can make the heart bigger.”

— Ben Okri



Course Description

ATYP Honors English 11/12 (Year 2) continues the development of the advanced compositional skills learned in English 9/10. Specifically, we focus on mastering skills in literary analysis, critical thinking, cultural awareness, and sophisticated reading. Students will be introduced to critical literary lenses that they will explore through a wide range of distinct and varied texts both contemporary and canonical, including short fiction, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and novels, as well as accompanying scholarly, academic, and other supplementary materials as required. Class time consists largely of cooperative learning ventures including extensive small and large group discussion, workshops and peer review, presentations and read-alouds, and collaborative writing, as well as instructor lectures and occasional community engagements or outside field trips. Writing assignments include formal essays, research papers, creative writing, multimedia projects, and presentations. In other words, we read a lot, write a lot, and talk a lot about what we’ve read and written!

Required Texts and Materials:

- *The Norton Introduction to Literature* (provided by ATYP)
- Required texts for fall semester/English 11:
 - *The Three Theban Plays: Antigone; Oedipus the King; Oedipus at Colonus* (ISBN: 9780140444254)
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (ISBN: 9780143107668)
 - William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (ISBN: 9780143128540)
- Required texts for English 12 will be announced in November and will likewise be available to purchase through This is a Bookstore and elsewhere
- Dedicated ATYP notebook (must be brought to class every day!)
- Writing utensils for in-class writing and notetaking such as pencils or pens (must be brought to class everyday!)
- Folder for organizing handouts, readings, and revisions
- 3-ring binder for portfolio (no more than 1.5")
- Other organizing or annotating materials (sticky notes, highlighters, markers, etc.) are not required but might be helpful based on the kind of student you are!

Course Objectives

- To critically analyze ideas and techniques used in a variety of written works
- To write critically, competently, and confidently about life and literature
- To develop an effective writing process that can be used across disciplines and genres
- To evaluate written work for effectiveness, clarity and flow, appropriate academic conventions, and cohesive, creative inquiry
- To develop revision skills alongside a robust writing and rewriting process
- To develop a strong scholarly eye, sense of academic inquiry, and ability to contribute vigorously and intentionally to class discussions
- To function as a productive, helpful, and engaged member of a writing community
- To identify, appreciate, and practice wielding the power of the written word

Tentative Schedule

Units	Themes	# of Weeks
Unit 1:	Summer Reading + Critical Lenses	5 weeks
	• <u>Unit Project</u> : Critical Lens Essay	
Unit 2:	Comedy + Tragedy	4 weeks
	• <u>Unit Project</u> : Modern Adaptation	
Unit 3:	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	4 weeks
	• <u>Unit Project</u> : Lyrics Analysis	
Unit 4:	<i>Hamlet</i>	5 weeks
	• <u>Unit Project</u> : Video Project	
Unit 5:	Conspiracy Theories	5 weeks
	• <u>Unit Project</u> : Researched Essay	
Unit 6:	Poetry Grab-bag + Lens Refresh	4 weeks
	• <u>Unit Project</u> : TBD Poetry Project	
Unit 7:	<i>Frankenstein</i>	4 weeks
	• <u>Unit Project</u> : Research Essay	
Unit 8:	Dystopias	4 weeks
	<u>Unit Project</u> : BYO Dystopia	

Policies and Requirements

Generally, I refer you to the standard Rules and Responsibilities memo that was mailed to you.

Homework: Due twice!

- **First**, via the Dropbox on eLearning by 10:00pm Wednesday, the night before class meets, unless otherwise specified.
- **Second**, you will also turn in **printed copies** of all homework at the beginning of each class period (again, unless otherwise specified). Graded work will then be returned to you within reasonable timeframes. This includes all work EXCEPT Notebook Rocket Fuel.
- **Bonus Third Point**, a reminder to **keep all your graded homework organized**. Putting it right into your binder once you get it back is a great way to ensure portfolio time is smooth sailing. More specifics on homework below.

Digital Organization: You should use Google Drive or another file folder organization system of your choosing. Create folders for each week of class, organize by semester, and keep your files properly labeled. You have access to Google apps through WMU: wmich.edu/google.

Late/missing work: You should always strive to submit work on time. I reserve the right to cap chronically/egregiously late work at a check (i.e., chronically late work may not be eligible for a check-plus) or not accept it at all. Late work will receive limited-to-no feedback from me. Extensions may be provided under extenuating circumstances, but I am more likely to provide an extension if I'm contacted before the due date.

Missing all/part of class, arriving late, or leaving early: Requires an email from an adult in your life OR an email from you with an adult copied on it explaining the absence. Repeated absences will require further discussion between me, you, and your adults.

Electronics Policy: You are allowed to use your laptop in class for class-related work like taking notes, pulling up readings, researching discussion questions, and looking up author info. Cell phones should not be used in class unless given permission by me.

Student Expectations

- Thoughtful, thorough, and timely completion of all assignments
- Close, careful reading of all assigned material
- Energetic participation and respectful attentiveness during class
- Conduct in keeping with university environment
- Professionalism and engagement, i.e. willingness to participate in class activities, keep notes, help others, arrive on time, be professional in correspondence, and contribute to the positive community of the class.
- Frequent and consistent checking of and participation in communication with me and the class: email, eLearning, etc.
- Articulation of ideas, beliefs, and opinions AND demonstrated respect for those of other writers/thinkers we encounter, as well as your fellow classmates (and me!)
- **Overall, your success in this class is your primary responsibility, with me providing collaborative support.** Communicate difficulties with your coursework (or of any sort) with me ahead of time, or in as timely a manner as possible.

Course Expectations. I will provide written comments on your essays and require revisions.

You can expect roughly 5-7 hours of homework each week. You must manage your time wisely when it comes to completing ATYP assignments. It is easy to tell which assignments have been completed at the last minute. Falling behind and then catching up is both very difficult and stressful. It is my hope that you find the homework challenging, instructive, engaging, and fun.

Assignments

There will be a lot of them, of many different kinds! You will label all of your homework with Name, Week Number, and Assignment, single-spaced in the upper left- or righthand corner, with a clever and interesting title centered one space above paper body. All file names for Dropbox will follow this format: Student Name - Week # and Assignment Type - REV (if applicable).

Journals: Minimum one page response; some will be more directed and others freeform or creative. Typed, **single-spaced**, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1" margins. Journals are for experimenting and thinking out loud; I encourage you to take risks and try out ideas. To that end, they do NOT require formal essay structure (intro, conclusion, etc.), though literary responses will still require quotes and textual evidence. There will be occasional journals of different length/format. Graded on the check system. **Expect ~45-60 minutes of work.**

Unit Essays and Projects: For each unit, you will complete a longer unit project; once per semester, this will take the form of a formal essay. Prewriting and/or drafting will be assigned; you will also peer edit AND revise them. Typed, **double-spaced**, 12 pt Times New Roman, 1" margins. The remaining unit projects will be creative in nature. All are graded on letter grade system. **Expect 4-6 hours of work.**

Vocabulary and Grammar: Some weeks will include an integrated vocabulary assignment and/or grammar challenge. You might copy down definitions, find examples in texts, and/or actively use certain grammar tools in your written work. These are mandatory! **Skipping these challenges can result in an automatic √– on the assignment.**

Notebooks: A dedicated ATYP notebook will be a) brought TO and actively used IN class every week, b) used extensively OUTSIDE of class for reading notes, prewriting, etc., and c) used exclusively FOR this class. Additional prompts AKA Notebook Rocket Fuel will get you thinking outside the box. Notebook work is neither optional nor an afterthought; see separate rubric for more details. Graded on check system at midterms and finals.

Engagement and Professionalism: See above Student Expectations. All students will begin the semester with 100 points in the Engagement and Professionalism grade category. Points may be lost for not adhering to college/classroom standards for behavior, engagement, or respect.

Revision and Portfolio: You are expected to revise any work that does not receive an A, A+, or √+. Revisions are due at the time of portfolio checks and portfolio final submissions. Any changes made to revised copies should be **highlighted**; edits that involve cutting or organizational changes can be described at the end of the revised copy, in a bulleted list that is also **highlighted**. Revisions will only receive a grade bump if substantial changes have been made. Everyone in this class is capable of excellence, and revisions give you the opportunity to put your best work forward!

Course Evaluation

Grading/Written Comments: You can expect me to comment on nearly all of your written work. This will include praise as well as critique; I want to give you a clear idea of how you should revise your work. If you have any questions about my comments, please reach out.

Grading Scale for Weekly Homework:

√– = You missed the mark. Potential issues include not answering the prompt or accepting its premise; no/not enough text examples; obvious lack of effort; length.

√ = Solid work. You nailed the analysis but had a inconsistent execution, or had fabulous writing and weak analysis, or did pretty good on both. You're on the right track.

√+ = Great work! You had a strong concept, pursued it with examples, and executed it well. Maybe a weak spot or two, nothing distracting. Be very proud of yourself!

Grade Distribution:

Unit essays and projects.....	30%
Journals.....	30%
Portfolios.....	15%
Notebook / Engagement & Professionalism....	25%.

Gradebook Conversion

Grade*	In Gradebook
√−	6/10
√	8/10
√+	10/10
A+	100/100
A	95/100
A-	92/100

Grade*	In Gradebook
B+	88/100
B	85/100
B-	82/100
C+	78/100
C	75/100
C-	72/100
E	60/100

*incomplete work may receive a lower grade than those listed.

WMU Grading Scale

(Your home school will convert your final WMU grade to match its own grading scale).

A.....	92%-100%
BA.....	88%-91.9%
B.....	82%-87.9%
BC.....	78%-81.9%
C.....	72%-77.9%
DC.....	68%-71.9%
D.....	62%-67.9%
E.....	61.9%-0%

Pep Talk

Every one of you has the ability to be successful in this class. Set a schedule, make a commitment to yourself, and embrace the challenges that ATYP presents to you! If you have any questions or need extra support, please reach out to me or take advantage of ATYP's other resources. The goal here isn't to be perfect, it is to learn—and learn, we will!



“I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship.”
 – Louisa May Alcott

