

# ADDITIONAL POLICIES

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

*“Mine honor is my life; both grow in one;  
Take honor from me, and my life is done.”*  
William Shakespeare (Richard II – I. ii)

Academic honesty is serious - perhaps the most serious issue in this or any class. Violations of this principle have been the downfall of writers, journalists, and politicians, not to mention students in my class.

Whether or not the infraction was intentional, the result is the same – you will not receive credit for any part of the assignment, you will not be able to make up the assignment, and you will have a referral sent to your administrator. Furthermore, I will not write any letter of recommendation for you, and I will retract any recommendation that has already been sent. Consequences may extend beyond the classroom, such as jeopardizing membership in the National Honor Society. This applies whether or not the act was intentional or not. There will also be no distinction made regardless of whether the work submitted was part of a formal or informal assignment and/or a draft that would later be revised and edited.

***This is especially important as some (or all) of you may be completing work remotely.***

Exams and writing assignments are designed to prepare you for success on the AP Literature Exam, as well as measuring your mastery of content.

Tests, quizzes, timed writings, etc. may involve very narrow windows to complete the assessment in order to ensure parity between students and the different learning environments. Any attempt to exploit the remote learning environment to gain an unfair advantage will result in parent contact and administrative referrals. Additional consequences may include change to assessment procedures or removal from Advanced Placement English.

**Academic misconduct includes any of the following:**

### Plagiarism

This is probably what most people think of when they hear the term “academic misconduct”. Representing the ideas of another person as your own, when you did not come up with those ideas, is plagiarism. It does not matter if it is a direct “cut and paste” or if you took the time to

put it in your own words; if it is not followed by a clear citation that points to the source from which it came, then you have committed plagiarism, irrespective of whether or not that was your intention.

Why do people plagiarize? Some actually do it because they were never taught that they had to cite their original sources. In our increasingly technological world, with information readily available at the touch of a few keys, most people in the world do not take the time to provide a reference to the source of their information. But there is a difference between sharing the content of a movie review with a peer, and presenting the information in any format where you expect to receive credit (grade, paycheck, acknowledgment) for the idea.

Other people do it because they have not planned well. Their lives are busy with other demands or distractions – work, other classes, social media, etc. If you are overwhelmed and feel that you have to take shortcuts, then you should stop to consider how your time is managed. A dishonest action to temporarily save face may end up being much more costly in the long run.

One other excuse that is commonly used by students is that they did not trust their own ideas. While this may seem to be a sympathetic rationale, it is still a grave mistake, and you will receive the same consequences as someone who committed the same act for a “less noble” reason.

And here is something to consider – you do not get smarter or develop your own abilities if you cheat. Those who are doing their own thinking will get smarter, and you will fall behind. Then it becomes a vicious cycle. This doesn’t just affect you in this class; it affects your abilities now and forever. Athletes do not get stronger watching others; they must go out there and push their bodies, continuously going beyond what they thought were their limitations. The same thing goes with your cognitive abilities. You will never know what you are capable of if you do not push yourself.

I do not want you to give me ideas that are not your own – whether they come from a book, an online source, or some college friend who is spouting wisdom from his or her professor. You may end up being wrong by being original, but you will end up smarter in the long run.

*“This above all: to thine own self be true.  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.”*  
William Shakespeare (*Hamlet* – I. iii)

## Unauthorized Collaboration

This is the most common form of malpractice, and though you may not consider it an egregious act, it will receive the same punishment as “big-time cheating”. ***If you have not been given specific instructions to work together on an assignment, then DO NOT collaborate or share material.*** There are several types of assessments on which I will instruct you to collaborate, but there are others that are designed to ask you to show me your original thought processes and

insights. Sometimes you grow as a person when you work with others, but you will never fully develop as a critical thinker if you are not challenged to think on your own.

Also, you are guilty whether you are the “giver” or the “receiver”. You may have done your own work, and probably spent a great deal of time doing it; however, if you share it with another student, then you have also been guilty of academic misconduct and all your work will be for naught. To avoid any possible penalties, you should not share your work with any other student. If you do so and your work or ideas appear to have been submitted, in whole or part, by another student, then you will also be penalized.

## Using unauthorized material or aids on assignments or tests

There are times when you will be allowed to use notes or other materials, including secondary sources, when working on an assignment, **but if you have not been told specifically that you may do so, then it is prohibited.** This includes assignments that are completed in class, as well as those that are completed outside of the class setting. This is especially important for those students who are in the remote learning environment.

## Sharing information about assessments

Students are not allowed to share information from tests, quizzes, essays or other assessments until the assessment has been graded and the class has discussed the information.

## Forgery/Fabrication

If you present anything that has been fabricated or altered, or if you present information that you allege is from a teacher, administrator, or parent in order to gain an unfair advantage, then it is academic dishonesty. You will not receive credit on the assignment that is affected, and you will not be allowed to make it up.

Again, this list is just an overview of the most common forms of malpractice. If there are questions, then they should be asked before action is taken. Ignorance will not be an excuse to avoid consequences.

Some formal and informal assignments will be submitted to turnitin.com to ensure originality of the material. Both electronic submission and a hard copy turned in to the teacher are required at the same time. Point deductions will be assessed if both requirements are not met by the due date.

# Literature is NOT for Children

As a student in Advanced Placement Literature, you must understand that the study of literature is not for those who are weak of mind or faint of heart, especially in a course that asks you to study works in a manner that goes beyond the superficial. Like any art appreciation class, the study of literature is one that requires a great deal from its students. Delving into the depths of novels, poetry, and drama is a challenging, yet rewarding, experience – the deeper you go, the more you will discover.

**You must also understand that literature was not written for children.** It was written by men and women who expected much from their audience in terms of knowledge and experience. That being said, you should bear these things in mind before, during, and after we read some of the great masterpieces of English, American, and world literature.

## Allusions

### *The Bible and Classical Mythology*

Whether or not you practice a religion in the Judeo-Christian tradition or observe any religion at all, you must understand that the artists who composed the literature of the ages drew extensively on the Bible and the teachings of Christianity. It was, and still is for many, a source of common knowledge that taught how to behave and what to believe, but it was also the foundation of the style of writing for the development of the art form of literature. Pick up a copy of the King James Bible and appreciate the translation of the poetry of the Psalms and the fluidity of its prose in the parables of The New Testament.

As far as the content of the Bible, if you truly want to get the most out of literature, you should understand that the great writers of any age expect their audience to have a basic working knowledge of the text. The more educated the writer, the more likely they are to include allusions in their writing – some of which are caught by only a handful of readers.

With this in mind, the expectation is that understanding basic biblical allusions is your responsibility. You are encouraged to know the basic stories of the Bible: Creation, The Fall of Man, The Great Flood, Exodus, and other major stories from The Old Testament, as well as the major events in the life of Christ and his teachings.

Some of the literature reinforces biblical teachings, while some works (or characters within works) challenge these beliefs and ideas in a head-on assault. We are **not** here to teach about religion, but it will be discussed as it directly relates to the work being studied. Sometimes you may feel enlightened, sometimes you may be angry and frustrated. However, we are not going to get bogged down in theology, and students are expected to keep their personal beliefs (or non-beliefs) to themselves and will not be allowed to attack others.

As far as allusions to classical mythology, it's probably a safe bet that there are few people who still practice the religions of the ancient Greeks, Romans, or Norse. It's probably easier, therefore, to avoid offending anyone when discussing classical mythology while studying literature.

Again, however, it is your responsibility to have a good working knowledge of the mythological gods and goddesses, their responsibilities and tendencies, and how things generally worked in the religions of the ancient world. If you don't recognize an allusion to "Niobe's tears" or the "Midas touch", you had better look it up.

## ***Shakespeare***

Paradoxically, we don't really know much about this guy, but he is everywhere. Shakespeare draws on the Bible and mythology and history; other writers draw on Shakespeare. The man (or woman) known as Shakespeare was a prolific writer and gave us some of our most resonant characters and enduring words and phrases. In fact, even if he takes artistic license and changes things around (Macbeth and Caesar, for example), he is widely seen as the paragon of English literature.

We will read some of his work in this class, but you will not really have a true understanding of his genius unless you go on to study him more in depth. Most allusions to his works that you need to know will be explained to you, but you are certainly encouraged to explore his other works. You will be amazed at how much more you will understand in the works of other authors, directors, and artists when you do.

## **Sex, Drugs, Violence and Other Touchy Subjects**

So, you have been asked to do your homework and know the references to the Bible, Mythology, and Shakespeare. Now we will talk about some other issues that will come up in our reading.

Sex (good and bad), drugs and violence (pretty much always bad) often make their way into literature and they will be discussed insofar as they add to the study of the art of the craft. Sometimes the use of sex in literary works is bawdy and humorous, sometimes it is tender and emotional, but it is important to literature because it is a universal experience. The same goes for violence and the use of alcohol and other drugs.

It bears repeating – literature was intended for adults, not children. There are issues and situations presented by writers that presuppose some experience that young adults simply do not (and should not) have. We do not discuss sex and other issues for the shock value; we discuss it because it is important to the understanding of the work. If you want to giggle or act in an immature manner, then you can do so outside of class.

## **Final Word:**

You are in an advanced class because you are expected to have the intelligence and maturity to handle the material. If, at any time, you have concerns or questions, please feel free to schedule a time to speak to me in private.