**English 12 Honors: Intro Info**

**Welcome Potential Honors Students,**

Enrolling in “English 12: Honors” means you are ready and willing to read and write at a more rigorous level than what is considered standard in the English 12 class. English 12 Honors is a year-long commitment, so students who are not interested in completing the second semester need not apply.

A majority of the work for the Honors class will be achieved independently, outside of class, on your own time. As always, I am here as a resource to help you in any way possible, but being a part of honors means you will be taking on more responsibility and will be expected to take initiative in finding help if needed.

**Requirements and Expectations:**

**To be enrolled in English 12: Honors, you must:**

• Have maintained at least a “B” in previous English classes and have strong recommendations from past writing teachers

• Complete a diagnostic essay about Literary Criticisms with a “3” or better by 8/21

*Submitted to TurnItIn.com to the English 12 Honors class*

• Schedule and participate in a one-on-one meeting with Stoll about author selection by

**Being enrolled in Honors includes commitment to the following assignments:**

• **Author Profile Critical Approach Essay (Semester 1):** Using a specific critical approach, honors students will focus their first semester on the work of one author who has been successful in writing across multiple genres. After choosing an approach and an author, students will be required to write a 10-12page essay that harmoniously weaves together analysis of multiple works and researched sources. The paper will be due two weeks before POL’s at the end of the semester. This essay will be a compilation, of sorts, made up of three smaller essays.

• **MultiGenre Project (Semester 2):** Rather than a single, extended piece of writing about a single perspective on a topic (like a traditional research paper), a multigenre project (MGP) is a cohesive series of written pieces in a variety of genres that look at different (sometimes conflicting) angles on the same question, topic, or theme. An MGP is personal, creative, and can’t be copied from some other source. It involves you, the writer, making conscious decisions about what information or ideas are important, and how it should be presented to the reader. Students will select a primary source that has made a significant impact on pop culture as the subject of their MultiGenre Project.

• **Honors Defense:** As a part of honors, you will be participating in separate, end of semester defenses. Your POLs will be a presentation of your honors work in front of a panel of peers and/or teachers. The panel will have read your essay and will be asking questions based on the material you have provided in your essay and in the presentation.

• **Participation in Honors Panels:** As a part of the honors group, you will be sitting on panels for your peers. You will be expected to read their essays and/or provided feedback and questions during their POL.

**First Assignment:**

**Literary Criticisms Diagnostic Report**

Your first assignment is due on Friday 8/31. It will be due on TurnItIn.com by 5pm.

You will be submitting it to a NEW TurnItIn.com class Called “Eng 12 Honors”. Check the “Honors” tab on my website for Class ID and Password.

Your task is to research different types of critical approaches to literature. Write a 2-3 page report (typed, double space, 1 inch margins, including header with student name/period/teacher name/date) in response to what these critical approaches / criticisms are and how they may be applied.

**The general outline for this report will be as follows:**

¶ 1: Intro Paragraph -

• How is “literature” different from other forms of writing?

• What is a “critical approach” to literature in general?

• What is the point of using a critical approach?

• Which three styles of critical approach will you be discussing in this report?

¶ 2: Critical Approach #1 *(See below)*

¶ 3: Critical Approach #2 *(See below)*

¶ 4: Critical Approach #3 *(See below)*

¶ 5: Conclusion and Reflection

• Which of these approaches do you find the most accessible, or would be the easiest to use? Why?

• Which of these do you think would be the most difficult and why?

• What have you learned by researching critical approaches to literature?

• Why do you think you would be a good candidate for English 12 Honors?)

**In responding to paragraphs 2, 3 & 4, answer the following prompts:**

- What is a general purpose of this type of approach?

- What are two literary works that you have read (in or out of school) that you could analyze using this approach?

- How would you go about using this approach for each of these two literary works?

Choose three of the following types of criticism / critical approaches to discuss in your essay, and discuss just one type in each body paragraph *(ie: ¶2, ¶3 & ¶4)*

- Biographical

- Formalist

- Feminist / Gender Studies

- Psychological / Psychoanalytic

- Mythological / Archetypal

- Sociological / Cultural Studies

- Your Choice! (only once)

Please see me or email me if you have any questions!

**Semester 1:**

For semester 1, you will be writing an essay comparing and contrasting multiple pieces of work written by the same author. The works will be from two different genres of literature/writing, and your comparison should focus on how the author uses these different forms to his/her advantage.

Your essay should provide analysis on multiple works of literature, as well as a research and/or background information relevant to the critical approach with which you choose to analyze this author’s work.

The List:

Legend:

N = Novel/Novella PO = Poetry SF = Short Fiction PL = Play / Script C = Collection (of essays, poems, etc.) E = Essay

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| --- | --- |
| **Sylvia Plath**  N: *The Bell Jar*  PO: Various Poems (ex: “Daddy”, “Lady Lazarus”, “Cut”) | **Jeffrey Eugenides**  N: *The Virgin Suicides, Middlesex*  C: *Fresh Complaint* (fiction) |
| **Alice Walker**  N: *The Color Purple, Meridian*  PO: Various Poems (“If I Was President”, “Our Martyr”)  SF: Various Stories (ex: “Everyday Use”) | **Flannery O’Connor**  N: *Wise Blood*  SF: Various Stories (ex: “A Good Man is Hard to Find”;  “Good Country Folk”) |
| **Oscar Wilde**  N: *The Portrait of Dorian Grey*  PL: *The Importance of Being Ernest*  SF: Various Stories (ex: “The Happy Prince”) | **Edgar Allen Poe**  SF: Various Stories (ex: “Cask of Amontallado”, “The Black Cat”; “Mask of the Red Death”)  PO: Various Poems (ex: “The Raven”; “Annabel Lee”) |
| **William Shakespeare**  PL: Various Plays (ex: *Much Ado About Nothing, Antony and Cleopatra, Twelfth Night*, etc.)  PO: Sonnets (ex: Sonnet 18; 116; 130) | **Richard Wright**  N: *Native Son*  SF: Various Stories (ex: “The Man Who Was Almost a  Man”) |
| **Ernest Hemingway**  N: *Old Man Sea, Garden of Eden, A Farewell to Arms*  SF: Various Stories (ex: “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”,  “Hills Like White Elephants”) | **Gabriel Garcia Marquez**  N: *Love in the Time of Cholera, 100 Years of Solitude*  SF: Various Stories (ex: “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings”) |
| **James Joyce**  N: *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*  SF: The Dubliners (“The Dead”) | **Sandra Cisneros**  C: *The House on Mango Street*  SF: Various Stories (ex: “Barbie Q”) |
| **Ray Bradbury**  N: Fahrenheit 451  C: The Martian Chronicles (fiction) | **Zora Neale Hurston**  N: Their Eyes Were Watching God  SF: Various Stories (ex: “Sweat”) |
| **Truman Capote**  N: In Cold Blood; Breakfast at Tiffany’s  SF: Various Stories (ex: “Miriam”, “A Tree of Night”) | **Helena Maria Viramontes**  N: Under the Feet of Jesus  SF: Various Stories (ex: “The Moths”) |
| **Kate Chopin**  N: The Awakening  SF: Various Stories (ex: “The Story of an Hour”,  “Desirae’s Baby”) | **John Steinbeck**  N: *Grapes of Wrath*  SF: Various Novellas (ex: “Of Mice and Men “, “The Pearl”) and Stories (ex: “Chrysanthemums”) |
| **Jhumpa Lahiri**  N: *The Namesake*  C: *Interpreter of Maladies* (ex: “A Temporary Matter”) | **Michelle McNamara**  N: *I’ll Be Gone in the Dark*  C: *In the Footsteps of a Killer* |
| **George Orwell**  N: *1984, Animal Farm*  SF: “A Hanging”  E: “Politics and the English Language” | **Jonathan Gold**  C: *Counter Intelligence: Where to Eat in the Real  Los Angeles*  E: Various Essays and Articles (ex: “Joys in the Hood”) |