

## Course Syllabus

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.” – Albert Einstein

**Essential Questions.** How is writing a means of discovery?  
How can the human spirit triumph?  
What is a hero? Is there a universal definition of a hero?  
How is literature used to critique or expose problems in society?  
How does an individual fight against an unjust or corrupt society?

**Course Description.** English Literature is a college preparatory course in which the student surveys the writings from Anglo-Saxon times to the twentieth century. Emphasis is placed on the development of English language, literature, and the historical contexts of the works. Students will develop an appreciation of the values and themes of these works and will express these views in oral and written analyses.

**Texts.** *Beowulf* translated by Seamus Heaney  
*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* translated by Simon Armitage  
*The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer  
a Shakespearean play (*A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet* or *Twelfth Night*)  
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
potential excerpts from *Frankenstein, Animal Farm, Emma, or Paradise Lost*  
short stories and poetry (various authors)  
various handouts and readings

**Materials.** Pen, pencil, a binder or notebook to keep track of all notes and readings.

**Grading.** Grades are based on students' performance on a midterm exam, final exam, quizzes, projects, and essays. The grade is calculated as follows: writing (reflections, papers, essays) are worth 40%; quizzes, participation, and misc. assignments are worth 20%; midterm and final exam are worth 40%. Since this is a college preparatory class, extra credit is rarely given.

<b>Grading Scale.</b>	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 59 or below
A 93-100	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

**Essays and MLA.** All writing assignments, unless specified otherwise, should be typed using Times New Roman, 12 point font. Modern Language Association (MLA) style and documentation rules are to be followed. Writing submitted in the incorrect format may be returned to the student to be changed, and the paper will be considered late.

**Turn-it-in.com.** Students will open an account and submit written work to Turnitin.com. This website is designed as a tool to ensure students properly give credit to others' ideas and words.

**Academic Integrity.** The honest representation of students' work is essential to a productive learning experience. More importantly, academic integrity is a reflection of individual character. Please refer to the PCH English Department "Standard of Academic Honesty" for specifics.

**Email & Google Classroom.** Parkway students are required to use their Parkway email account to contact teachers. Please keep emails formal and respectful, and remember email is rarely an acceptable substitute for speaking to or conferencing with Mrs. Michael in person. Students should check the Google Classroom daily for updates, announcements, assignments, resources, and the calendar.

**Attendance Policy.** Each student's presence is vital in order to fully develop skills and explore concepts during class discussion. I expect students to be in their seats and ready to begin class when the bell rings. As stated in the Student Handbook, the first tardy is a warning and the second is a detention. See the Student Handbook for further specifics (6-7).

I understand there are times when extenuating circumstances make it impossible to attend class. During such instances it is your responsibility to gather class notes from other students. It is also your responsibility to visit the website, consult your calendar, or meet with me to find out what you missed. Please check in with me during Academic Lab or after school.

**Late Assignment Policy.** Students are expected to come prepared at the beginning of class with completed readings. If you miss an exam or assignment handout, you must make arrangements with the instructor to make it up immediately. If you were present when the assignment was given, you are expected to return to school with said assignment completed within one class after your return (only accepted if absence excused). ***Late homework is not accepted. For essays, late papers will be accepted up to two weeks late with an automatic ten point/letter grade deduction. After that, the paper cannot be turned in for credit.***

**Restroom Policy.** Students are expected to use the restroom during pass time. The restroom pass may be used in emergencies. Please do not interrupt class discussion by asking to go; if the pass is there, please sign out before using the restroom.

**Cell Phones/iPods.** Technology is an incredible tool that should be utilized and integrated in the classroom. However, cell phones and iPods often distract learners from the interpersonal interactions required to be proficient communicators of both the spoken and written word. These devices should NOT be visible or used once students walk through my door. If the device is seen, Mrs. Michael reserves the right to take it away until the end of the school day. See page 13 in the Student Handbook for additional consequences.

**Food.** No food or snacks are allowed in the classroom.

**The expectations to which I hold my students and myself can be summed up:  
Be respectful; Be responsible; Be ready to learn.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or seeking help. I want students in my classroom to be challenged academically but also to feel confident as they face those challenges.

I look forward to a thoughtful and enjoyable year ahead!  
Please keep the first page of the Course Syllabus for future reference,  
and return this copy for Mrs. Michael's records.

**Course Expectations and Procedures**

Please show this syllabus to your parent/guardian. After both of you have read the syllabus together, please sign and return this page to Mrs. Michael. By signing this, each individual acknowledges that they have read and understood the course expectations outlined in the syllabus above.

Parents/guardians: please also include contact information that would be best to reach you throughout the semester.

Student Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have computer access at home? Please circle: YES / NO

Student Extracurricular Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Health concerns or situations of which Mrs. Michael should be made aware in order to better teach your student (please do not disclose anything you do not feel comfortable with my knowing):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***If this contract is returned to Mrs. Michael next class Mon, Jan 8 the student will earn 5 points of homework credit (this is one of the rare opportunities for extra credit – so don't miss out!).***

## Course Schedule of Readings and Assignments

### OLD ENGLISH

Week 1 (Jan 4-5): course overview; kennings; “The Wanderer” and the comitatus code

Week 2 (Jan 8-12): *Beowulf* readings and discussion

**Jan 8** – *Beowulf* lines 1-835

**Jan 10 (B-85)** – *Beowulf* lines 836-2509

**Jan 12** – **In-class Write: “Understanding Beowulf: Oral Poetry Acts”**

Week 3 (Jan 16-19): *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*

Week 4 (Jan 22-26): Anglo-Saxon readings and historical accounts; drafting

**Jan 22** – introduction and detailed outline process check

**Jan 24** – “The Battle of Maldon”

**Jan 26** – **completed paper due and submitted to turnitin.com by 7:30 am**

**\* Final Analysis Paper #1 due to Google classroom by midnight**

### MIDDLE ENGLISH

Week 5 (Jan 29-Feb 2): cultural clashes and religious influence reflected in “The Passion of St. Edmund”; the chivalric code and Romantic heroes

Jan 31 – *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* part 2 (ll. 491-1125)

Feb 2 – *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* parts 3-4 (ll. 1126-2531)

Week 6 (Feb 5-9): introduction to Geoffrey Chaucer & *The Canterbury Tales*; courtly love; satire versus mockery in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*

Feb 5 – “The General Prologue” of *The Canterbury Tales*

Feb 7 (B-62) – “The Knight’s Tale” of *The Canterbury Tales*

**Feb 9** – **In-Class Write: Making a Mockery of Chivalry and Courtly Love**

Week 7 (Feb 12-15): story genres; continuing our journey in *The Canterbury Tales*

Feb 13 – “The Pardoner’s Tale” of *The Canterbury Tales*

Feb 15 – “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale” of *The Canterbury Tales*

Week 8 (Feb 20-23): story genres; continuing our journey in *The Canterbury Tales*

Feb 21 – “The Wife of Bath’s Tale” of *The Canterbury Tales*

Feb 23 – introduction and story map process check

Week 9 (Feb 26-Mar 2): midterm exam review and story-telling contest preparation

**Feb 26** – **complete draft due and ready for peer review**

Feb 28 – midterm review and story revision

**Mar 2** – **Midterm Exam**

Week 10 (Mar 5-9): monsters and the grotesque in British literature from Grendel to Frankenstein

**Mar 5** – **completed story due and submitted to turnitin.com by 7:30 am**

**\* Final Creative Tale Paper #2 due to Google classroom by midnight**

**Mar 7 (B-62)** – **Story-Telling Contest**

*Mar 9* – *Celebrate Central (Modified Schedule)*

## MODERN ENGLISH

Week 11 (Mar 12-16): Shakespearean comedies and performance as story; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Week 12 (Mar 19-23): Shakespearean comedies and performance as story; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Mar 21 – group assignments and planning

Mar 23 – group rehearsal

*Spring Break (Mar 26-30)*

Week 13 (Apr 2-6): Shakespearean soliloquies and Tragic heroes; *Hamlet*; performance as story preparation

Apr 2 – group rehearsal with props

Apr 3 – ACT (*Modified Schedule*)

**Apr 4 (B-85) – Group Scene Performances; completed justification due and submitted to turnitin.com by 7:30 am**

**\* Final Justification & Analysis Paper #3 due to Google classroom by midnight**

Apr 6 – Hamlet's soliloquies

Week 14 (Apr 9-13): dystopian literature; introduction to *Brave New World* & Aldous Huxley

Apr 13 – *Brave New World* chapters 1-6

Week 15 (Apr 16-20): *Brave New World* as a cautionary tale

Apr 16 – *Brave New World* chapters 7-9

Apr 18 – *Brave New World* chapters 10-14

Apr 20 – *Brave New World* chapters 15-18

Week 16 (Apr 23-26): *Brave New World* as a cautionary tale

Apr 23 – Brave New World: “The Fountain of Youth” TED talks

**Apr 26 – In-class Write: Arguing For or Against Huxley's Warning**

Week 17 (Apr 30-May 4): course review

Week 18 (May 7-11): course review

**Date TBA – Final Exam**

All readings listed should be read prior to class for that day, unless I announce otherwise. Changes will undoubtedly be made from time to time, but instructor will give you notice. If you miss a Do-Now due an absence, make sure you make it up before your return to class.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<b>January 15:</b>	No School (MLK, Jr. Day)
<b>February 16 &amp; 19:</b>	No School (Professional Development & President's Day)
<b>April TBA:</b>	Deadline to Sign Up for Graduation Speaker Tryouts
<b>April 21:</b>	Prom @ 6 – 11 pm; Sheraton Westport
<b>April TBA:</b>	Graduation Speaker Tryouts @ 2:30
<b>April 27:</b>	No School
<b>May 5:</b>	Beautification Day @ 8 am – noon (includes free lunch for volunteers)
<b>May 10:</b>	Awards Evening @ 7pm; PCHS Theatre
<b>May 11:</b>	Seniors' Last Day, senior barbecue after exams
<b>May 15:</b>	<b>Mandatory</b> Graduation Practice @ 8:30 am – noon; Queeny Park Evening of Reflection @ 7:00 pm; Gym A
<b>May 17:</b>	Commencement @ 7:30 pm; Queeny Park

**SEE THE GRADUATION GUIDE ONLINE FOR MORE IMPORTANT SENIOR DUE DATES!**