

2019 A.P. Literature and Composition Summer Reading

This year, I have some exciting new changes planned for the class. It will be reading and writing intensive of course, conducted as a workshop that is student driven, and built with a substantial amount of choice and responsibility placed on students. That choice and responsibility will start during the summer. Students are expected to acquire the books and complete the following assignments prior to the first day of class:

***On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King**

In Stephen King storytelling fashion, this guide to writing for oneself and others is sincerely engaging and oft useful even in an academic setting. You will not be quizzed on King's writing lessons, however you must create a PowerPoint, Google Slide, Prezi, or . . . titled "10 Tips to Writing". To get a "C" you must have ten slides with ten useful lessons learned from the memoir. Want something more than a "C" for this? Be creative and blow the lid off the assignment.

And one of your choice from the following:

***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

***Blood Meridian* by Cormac McCarthy**

***Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut**

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**

Read the novel and fill out the data sheet attached. The purpose of the data sheet is to create a study guide or a map of your reading. It will require some research (author's background, history, maybe important quotations, etc.).

As part of your reading of one of the novels listed above, I want you to be informed about how the class will be structured. I think you knowing will encourage you to read with a different kind of purpose. Yes the data sheet is important, however I have found that students find it tedious. Be that as it may, it is important to have a source you have created that maps your reading. To my point about the structure of the class, units will be centered around studying literary movements/periods. In each unit you will read two major novels, novellas, and/or dramas—one will be of your choice (see above) and one of my choice, which will be called anchor texts. Poetry and excerpts from other works within the literary movement will be sprinkled throughout. The most important part will be that you are learning to research, read, and write at an academic level. It is essential that you are reading all works critically, else your writing will be "mere plot summary," and that will not suffice.

Happy reading and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you next year.

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