

Leslie Lynn Conner
Room T-1
School year 2008-2009

Alexis I. duPont High School -- 12th Grade College Preparatory English

Course Description: This *college preparatory* course is a comprehensive study, covering various modes of English and world literature (poetry, essay, novella, drama etc.), and the critical forms of reading writing, and thinking. Your grade will be made up of the points you earn for all assignments -- your grade will reflect the percentage points you earn divided by the possible total points. After an extensive literature and writing study, we will embark on your research/term paper for the 4th marking period. We will cover ALL research skills, and you will be graded on each step of the process. Throughout the year, note-taking and study skills will be covered and discussed, and vocabulary and grammar lessons to fortify your writing and comprehension will be taught as needed .

Course Expectations: Each student is expected to arrive promptly to class **PREPARED** with writing materials, class notebook, textbook (when needed), and any materials being studied at that time. **FAILURE** to meet these requirements will result in injury to your grade (see **Daily Requirements** section of this syllabus). The five classroom behavior requirements apply at all times, in all situations: **RESPECT, FAIR PLAY, PEER SUPPORT, SENSE OF HUMOR, AND ADHERENCE TO ALL SCHOOL RULES.** DEFIANCE of my authority or these requirements **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** and will result in loss of daily points, administrative referral, and exclusion from my class. Additional rules will be established as the need arises.

Texts:

Elements of Literature (English & World Literature – Sixth Course) (Holt, Rinehart & *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption* by Stephen King Winston)
(*IF TIME ALLOWS*) → “Macbeth” by Bill Shakespeare – in text and fortified with excerpts from various versions
Assorted teacher-generated materials (articles, research information, poems, films, etc.)

Grades:

According to the Red Clay Consolidated School District requirements:

100 - 93	A
92 - 85	B
84 - 77	C
76 - 70	D
Below 70	F

**MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS MAKE UP 20% OF
YOUR GRADE**

Daily Grade Requirements: In addition to your work grades, you will be responsible for 10 points each day in class. Simply, to earn the full 10 points for each day, you must be present, on time, participate, and be prepared with the appropriate text, notebook, homework and writing materials. Basically, you earn points for being a *normal student*. Any shortcomings concerning these requirements will result in subtractions from your daily grade. Some examples are below:

unexcused late	- 4 points
no notebook, text, other materials	- 2 points for each item
no participation	- 5 points
disruption/lack of attention/sleeping	- <u>usually</u> - 10 or 0 for the day

An **unexcused absence**, removal from my room or sleeping will result in a 0 for the day. These points can NOT be made up. However, the daily points for an **excused absence** will be replaced if you make up the work for that time period.

IMPORTANT: A bad daily grade average can turn an A into an F; a major part of your success in this class is your ability to conduct yourself as a student. A bad performance in day to day class will erase points earned by good paper work. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!!

Our Agreement as to Late Work/Absences/ Make-up: If you do not attend my class REGULARLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY (acting like you care), **YOU WILL FAIL THIS COURSE -- GUARANTEED.** Acceptance of late work (NOTE: **some work CANNOT be turned in late and some will lose points for each day late**), make-up work, and work provided for absences is **SOLELY UP TO ME.** I am willing to work with you for your benefit under almost any circumstances; **HOWEVER**, IF NO INTEREST OR EFFORT IS SHOWN CONSISTENTLY ON YOUR PART, I WILL BE **EXTREMELY RELUCTANT** TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS, OR BE LENIENT IN ANY WAY. It is **your responsibility** to meet me at LEAST half way. ***If you don't care, you can't expect others to work harder than you for your grade. The real world works this way. Trust me!!!***

Extra Credit Policy: I accept both writing and artwork for extra credit. The artwork MUST be related to the unit or literature we're reading presently in class. The writing can take just about any form: poetry, lyrics, journal entries, stories, papers, etc. Extra credit CAN NOT be work done for other classes. **ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE CORRECT GRAMMATICALLY AND SPELLING-WISE.** You can earn up to 400 points of extra credit (50 pts per typed page - 8 page max.) a marking period, ONLY IF **ALL YOUR CLASS WORK AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE TURNED IN.**

Re-Do Policy: A good portion of class assignments can be re-done for a higher grade. You can re-do an assignment until you receive the grade you desire. ***However, you must tell me that you wish to re-do an assignment, so I can give you a due date.*** If the re-done assignment is turned in after the due date, it is unacceptable, or will be penalized late points. Also, THE ORIGINAL ASSIGNMENT MUCH BE ATTACHED TO THE RE-DONE VERSION, OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The re-do grade replaces the original grade completely.

Admit Slips and Early D's

1. I MUST see admit slips for excused absences within **ONE WEEK** of the absence for it to be considered excused. Don't depend on my access to Eschool for knowledge of the absence status - I want to see the slip.
2. I prefer to see early dismissal slips THE DAY OF THE DISMISSAL. That way, my records are accurate, and you can get the work/information for that class period. **IF A MAJOR ASSIGNMENT OR PROJECT IS DUE THAT CLASS PERIOD, IT MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE YOU LEAVE - NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**

Passes From Class

I abide by and enforce the "three pass rule," which only allows you THREE passes per marking period, NO MORE. If you do NOT use your three passes, EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE AWARDED FOR THAT MARKING PERIOD (10 points per unused pass), but passes do NOT "HOLD OVER" into the next marking period. If you use all three & need more, you may "BORROW" from the following marking period, but this is NOT ADVISED, because you may need those passes for future unforeseen reasons.

12th grade Notebook

Purpose : YES, THIS IS A COURSE REQUIREMENT!!! The notebook has many purposes. It is a record of your and the course's movement throughout the year. This is a record for BOTH of us. Sometimes we need to look back on materials covered, and you need a study guide for papers, midterms, and finals.

WHAT YOU MUST DO:

1. Take notes when required or asked to do so -- date them and keep them organized.
2. Keep ALL WORK . This means anything I give you, anything you complete, articles, stories, etc. It is advised that you keep these in chronological order, according to the date stamp I give all turned in work. These will be checked each marking period. Failure to keep a notebook will not only cause you to become clueless about what we've previously covered, it is a requirement, and 100 points of each marking period point total. Your notebook eliminates the possibility of lost work, or *"I handed that IN!!!"* arguments. APPEARANCE OF THE NOTEBOOK CAN EITHER DESTROY, OR BOOST YOUR NOTEBOOK GRADE.

SPECIAL FAILURE POLICY

This is an extremely important policy for this class. DEADLINES and MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS have an effect on both assignments' and marking period grades. As mentioned above, work loses points if it is late. This especially applies to MAJOR PAPERS and MAJOR PROJECTS. IMPORTANT: Even if a MAJOR assignment is so far past the deadline that little credit can be given -- IT MUST BE HANDED IN. FAILURE TO HAND IN ANY MAJOR ASSIGNMENT OR PROJECT WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC FAILURE FOR THAT MARKING PERIOD. SENIOR RESEARCH PAPERS: These papers are important to your 4th marking period grade and ARE A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT!! Read those last four words again. THIS MEANS THAT YOU CANNOT GRADUATE WITHOUT TWO THINGS: 1) a passing grade in the class and 2) AN ACCEPTABLE RESEARCH PAPER. Please be sure all parties understand this last statement before you sign below. PLEASE READ THE ABOVE AGAIN. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

End of Marking Period Deadlines: THE DAY AND DATE POSTED FOR MAKE-UP WORK AT THE END OF EACH MARKING PERIOD IS NOT NEGOTIABLE - it is set in STONE !!!. You will have plenty of advance notice about this date. Unless you are absent for an extended period of time at the end of the marking period (this usually results in an incomplete grade if arranged personally between you and me), work and notebooks ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED after the deadline date, EVEN IF YOU HAVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR THAT DAY. AGAIN, ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. **IF YOU PLAY A SPORT, READ THE ABOVE TWO PARAGRAPHS AGAIN!! YOU NEED TO BE PASSING THIS CLASS IN ORDER TO PLAY!!!**

PARENT (or guardian)/CHILD PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Both parties have **read, discussed, understood** ALL the above material contained in this document, and **AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE REQUIREMENTS STATED THEREIN**. We understand that the student's educational success depends on a THREE-WAY PARTNERSHIP of support and guidance, involving us and Ms. Conner. We reserve the right to question, discuss, and involve ourselves in this course whenever one member of this partnership feels it is necessary. [A copy of this will be retained for records, and **the student must keep the original course description is his/her notebook for the ENTIRE year.**]

STUDENT: _____ Date: _____

PARENT(S) GUARDIAN(S): _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

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