

JMCHS Application for Advanced Placement English Literature 2010/2011

The seminar is designed to challenge bright and motivated students genuinely eager to engage a substantial body of literature that is not usually encountered in regular high school English classes. The class will be primarily question, discussion, and close reading rather than lectures. The focus will be on reading comprehension and analysis of the texts.

Several short essays on student-initiated topics are due each quarter. Exams will be both essay and objective. **All students must take the AP exam in the spring. The cost is currently about eighty dollars.**

If you are interested in being considered for this class please fill out the form below, attach it to your portfolio and submit it **NO LATER THAN MARCH 22 at 2:40 PM. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

Please note: there is a summer reading list and exams on those texts the first week of class. Students who cannot pass the exams with a C- or higher will be transferred to another class. Any act of plagiarism will result in the student being removed from the class.

PORTFOLIO APPLICATION:

Please include all of the following items as part of your application. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.** The cover letter and the critical analysis of the poem are the only two new pieces of writing. The rest should be examples of your best work.

Include:

- Application
- Cover letter (one page describing why you are interested in the course and what your qualifications are)
- A critical analysis of "Quivira City Limits"

Optional:

- Reflections on any or all of your pieces of writing
- Any other writing that demonstrates your ability

Name _____ Cumulative GPA _____

English Courses Teacher Grade

Freshman year _____

Sophomore year (1st Semester) _____

Sophomore year (2nd Semester) _____

Instructions for writing the critical analysis essay.

Type a focused, coherent response to the following poem. Your response should be critical, not personal, and can be no longer than one and a half pages. I suggest you choose one specific focus for your essay. Critical analysis essays often look at **one** of the following things: major idea, imagery, diction, tone, mood, point of view or style. An analysis attempts to take some thing apart and show how it works. Do your own work. Use the text of the poem; do not use supplemental information or data. You might use a dictionary or look in an essay-writing handbook for tips on writing. I am interested in your ability to read critically and write about what the author is communicating with this piece of literature. Write about this poem only.

QUIVIRA CITY LIMITS
for Thomas Fox Averill

Pull over. Your car with its slow
breathing. Somewhere outside Topeka
it suddenly all matters again,
those tractors blooming rust
in the fields only need a good coat
of paint. Red. You had to see
for yourself, didn't you; see that the world
never turned small, transportation
just got better; to learn
we can't say a town or a baseball
team without breathing in a
dead Indian. To discover why Coronado
pushed up here, following the guide
who said he knew fields of gold,
north, who led them past these plains,
past buffaloes dark as he was. Look.
Nothing but the wheat, waving them
sick, a sea. While they strangle
him blue as the sky above you
The Moor must also wonder
when will all this ever be enough?
this wide open they call discovery,
disappointment, this place my
thousand bones carry, now call home.

By Kevin Young