

English 12
Mr. Berger
2009 - 2010

World & British Literature
727-7284 ext. 72803, Room 803
<http://www.rbvhs.org/teachers/berger/home.htm>
tberger@vusd.k12.ca.us

English 12 is a yearlong, 10 credit course that combines the study of World and British literature with reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Students will be exposed to different genres and writers covering a variety of topics. Non-fiction articles and selections will also be included in the units based on literary themes and current events. In addition to reading, the students will focus on vocabulary and grammar for the purpose of performing well on college entrance and placement tests. There will also be a variety of formal and informal writing assignments.

Semester I

Reflective Personal Narrative

“One Word of Truth Outweighs the World”, Alexander Solzhenitsyn*
Professional & student examples of reflective writing.

Literature of Antiquity

Selections from Gilgamesh
Selections from the Genesis
Selections Beowulf
Oedipus the King, Sophocles

Drama: The English Renaissance

Hamlet, William Shakespeare

The Romantic Era

Select Poetry

Semester II

South Africa

Cry, the Beloved Country, Alan Paton*
My Children, My Africa!, Athol Fugar

The Novel

Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger

Short Stories & Poetry

Selected short stories & poems from a variety of world writers

Rhetorical Studies

Throughout the year students will study the elements of effective writing. Several non-fiction pieces and persuasive articles, essays, and speeches will be read and analyzed. Each semester students will write analysis of non-fiction texts as well as persuasive arguments.

Grades and Points

75% of the student's grade is based on essays, tests, quizzes, and activities that evaluate his or her mastery of select California state language arts standards for 12th grade.

25% of the student's grade is based on participation. These include daily homework and class work assignments that are checked for completion and are student evaluated or reviewed in class.

There are no extra-credit assignments. Bonus points may be earned or rewarded on specified assignments.

Grading Scale

100% - 89%	A
88% - 79%	B
78% - 65%	C
64% - Below	F

Make Up Work Policy:

All work must be turned in the day it is due!

If absent, it is the student's responsibility to get make up work. Students are required to check the class web site (<http://www.rbvhs.org/teachers/berger/home.htm>) for the daily calendar of assignments AND e-mail me at tberger@vusd.k12.ca.us stating they received the information.

If you do not have the Internet or e-mail access at home, leave a message on my voice mail 727-7284 extension 72803.

The student must initiate make-up tests and quizzes within 2 days of the absence. Make up work may be turned in within the amount of days missed; however, students are still accountable for reading assignments. Check the website!

Do not put ANY make-up work in my box! Put it in my hands.
No make up work will be accepted for cuts or suspensions.

Class Expectations

Rancho Buena Vista High School has adopted the six pillars of character as part of the behavior code on campus. Students at RBV will demonstrate **Good Character** on and off campus. Each student is **Trustworthy** and consistently shows **Respect** and **Responsibility** to themselves and others. They are **Fair** and **Caring** in all their actions and model appropriate **Citizenship**.

Be Ready

Class begins at the bell. Please be in your seat before the bell rings. Please refer to the RBV tardy policy. If you are on time every day for the entire semester, you will receive 10 bonus participation points. If you are on time and have perfect attendance for the entire semester, you will receive 20 bonus participation points.

Be Responsible

Students are responsible to bring the following to class each day:
A three ring binder, blue or black ballpoint pens, pencil, & paper
ID Card (You cannot check out books without it!)
Current book we are reading in class and a personal book he or she chooses to read. (SSR book.)
Students are expected to write down all homework assignments in their notebooks or an assignment calendar.
Excessive forgetting materials and restroom trips may result losing participation points.
Students who demonstrate responsibility in class may earn bonus participation points as well.

Be Respectful

Listen to & respect others. Follow instructions the 1st time.
Discipline procedure: In class warning, call or letter home, possible detention or referral.
See student handbook for cell phone & music player policy.

The Signature!

I have read and understand the class expectations:

Parent's signature _____ Student's signature _____

Please keep this syllabus in your notebook throughout the year. If you still have it at the end of each semester, you will earn 10 bonus points on your participation grade. This is your contract for English 12. The literature or order of the units may change due to resources or time, but this is the game plan for the year. Always ask questions if you are ever unsure about my expectations. I am looking forward to a great year with you! The countdown to graduation begins!