

ENG 1600: Introduction to World Literature
Ms. Nelson
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The primary goal of Introduction to World Literature at Shawnee High School is to develop your abilities as a reader and writer (especially as a critic of literature and non-fiction) by giving you a college-level course during high school. You have chosen to enroll in this demanding English literature survey course so effective organization and doing work in a timely manner is crucial.

ENG 1600 should both be demanding and intellectually stimulating, but it requires your consistent best effort. Classroom discussion and active participation are vital means of testing your ideas. Written assignments, both short-term and long-term, will be an important and frequent feature of this course.

As your teacher, I hope that each of you will fully accept the challenge of college work and give it your best effort. In addition to class time, I will be available to help you before or after school. From you, I expect good, thought-provoking work.

The course is 100% fiction, which includes reading and analyzing novels, short stories, and poetry. Taking the AP English Literature test in May is an option you may wish to explore, based on your intended university and major requirements but this is not an AP course.

Please read all of this information carefully and complete everything. Your one summer reading assignment is due in June. There is no assignment due when we return in August.

Please see me if you have questions or email me at the address at the top of this page.

***Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare** (100pts)

In an essay between 800-1000 words in length, respond to the prompt: Among other subjects, *The Merchant of Venice* is a play about relationships. A variety of couples is depicted: father-daughter; husband-wife; male friends; female friends; money lender-borrower and Christian-Jew. Explore one of these relationships considering how this relationship changes (or doesn't change) over time, and speculate what Shakespeare's message may have been when creating these characters and relationships. Quote liberally from the play. **This assignment will be due during the summer, specifically, no later than midnight DST, June 30.** Please send your essay through email to the address below. Please do not send it as an attachment. If you do not have email, please see me and we will make other arrangements.

Please note: This assignment is due during the summer. You will receive no credit for this assignment if it is submitted when the school year begins. In past years, a zero on this assignment usually results in an F for the first nine weeks. This happens to students every year-please don't let it happen to you.

I encourage you to **keep a copy of what you are sending me**. You will need to bring a copy of your essay to class, so keep a copy available. Please do **not** send your work as an attachment.

Again, here is my email address:

Elizabeth.Nelson@cslocal.org

If you do not have email access, again, please see me so we may make other arrangements.

In the days following your submission I will email you confirming that I have received your essay. I'll be traveling this summer, so don't panic if you don't hear from me immediately.

When school starts in August, this assignment and the discussion on *The Merchant of Venice* is where we will begin.

A few other things to keep in mind for ENG 1600:

Please bring all work to class. No matter the point value, every assignment must be submitted at the beginning of class. No credit will be given for work turned in after class. There are few grades in this course, so please be diligent. I cannot stress enough the importance of submitting all work. This is not the place to forget to do your reading or your homework.

You will need to purchase your summer reading books on your own or maybe you have a sibling or friend from whom you may borrow the books. In any case, the edition of books you use is your decision. I recommend the Folger Library edition of *The Merchant of Venice*. There are several very good editions of Shakespeare available but I like the scene summaries and definitions of words that accompany the text. The ISBN number for this book is: 0-671-72277-8. This edition is reasonably priced, it's about \$6.00. An electronic book version of the play is fine too.

If you have questions, please make sure you come ask before the end of the school year. Don't wait. I'll be in Tampa, Florida scoring the AP Language exam, so please don't delay in asking for clarification. If you have questions in the summer though, please email me at the address I gave you for your essay, and I will respond as quickly as possible to your query.

Have extra time and don't know what to do? Read a book. In recent years, instructors at the high school and college levels have encouraged students to read beyond the Western canon of literature. With the advent of the Common Core Curriculum, the classic texts have resurged. Here are some suggested titles you may want to explore over the summer. Many are classics, but there are a few more modern texts included:

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Light in August by William Faulkner

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

A Room with a View by E.M. Forster

Of Human Bondage by W. Somerset Maugham

The Iliad by Homer

The Odyssey by Homer

Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Medea by Euripides

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Atonement by Ian McEwan

Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders

The Icarus Girl by Helen Oyeyemi