

Dramatic Literature Syllabus 2025-2026



Instructor: Ms. Maggie Weiland (She/Her/Hers)

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About Me: I am an avid reader and writer, always happy to talk about books! You can find me hiking around Stevens Point, going to the gym, watching the latest Netflix docuseries, and reading something new.

Description:

Welcome to Dramatic Literature, actors, techies, thespians, and scholars! I am so excited to learn with you this year. In this class, we show dedication, maturity, hard work, respect, and responsibility. Dramatic Literature is a course designed to learn about drama and theater. We will be analyzing character, performing monologues, evaluating themes, and building our understanding of all things DRAMATIC! Be ready to take risks and learn more as we explore themes of love, loss, murder, and prophecy!

Course Learning Goals

I will be able to...

- cite, analyze, and evaluate relevant textual evidence to support their argument. (R.11-12.1)
- define and analyze complex themes. (R.11-12.2)
- define and analyze literary terms and their effect on the work as a whole. (R.11-12.3)
- evaluate texts and build connections to outside texts, concepts, and experiences. (R.11-12.9)
- identify what genre literature falls under and what elements make it such. (R.11-12.7)
- explore, participate in, examine, and evaluate on the writing processes of themselves and others and make meaningful edits and revisions to improve its content, complexity, and audience appeal. (W.11-12.5)
- engage with diverse perspectives and ideas in a respectful way, comparing and contrasting new ideas with their existing beliefs and collaborating with others to add depth to discussions.(SL.11-12.1)
- analyze the use of figurative language within a text and employ it in their own writing to further their message.(L.11-12.3)

Texts covered may include...

- *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
- *Fences* by August Wilson
- *The Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
- *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder
- *The Laramie Project* by Moisés Kaufman

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- Poetry-- as selected
- Short Fiction and Essays -- as selected

Dramatic Literature is Weighted as Follows:

- Assignments (Formative) 30%
 - Annotations, discussions, figurative language work, assignments, homework, daily practice, journal entries, etc.
- Test (Summative) 70%
 - Essays, quizzes, tests, summative unit projects, presentations, etc.

Unit Expectations:

At the beginning of each unit, we will complete exploratory and pre-reading activities to better understand the texts we will be working with as well as the unit's essential questions. Each unit will have several smaller writing assignments as well as on-demand writing pieces in class. Students will complete a final summative assessment at the end of each unit that incorporates all of the skills they are learning in that unit.

Writing Expectations:

Writing about what you read is crucial to learning and showing what you know. We will write about what we are reading and watching throughout this class. It will be in both short, quick writes and longer, academic written pieces. When writing in this English course, please use MLA (Modern Language Association) format (12pt, Times New Roman, 1-inch margin, etc.) unless otherwise noted. As with all English classes, your writing conventions matter.

Reading Expectations:

In Dramatic Literature, we will study several plays. Some we will read aloud as a group, others you will read independently, and some we will watch performed. All assigned readings are expected to be completed before class. Reading quizzes and journals will be used to gauge comprehension. It is important not only to read the text but to be able to discuss your interpretations. If you prefer to use audiobooks, those are another great tool for reading. I am very excited to read with you all this year!

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using something that is not your work and claiming it as your own. PLEASE be the author of your writing! We are in this class to grow as writers and to do that, we need to practice. This includes using AI to create writing. Generative AI is not acceptable work in Dramatic Literature. Tools such as spell or grammar checks are useful tools to edit what you have already written. At the same time, your writing needs to be your own. If you are worried about not making a deadline, please talk to Ms. Weiland before the due date so that we can figure out an alternative or extension.

If a student plagiarizes another's work the first and second time, the student will have the chance to redo the assignment for half credit. By the third time it happens, the student will receive a zero on their assignment. This is the policy in the Almond-Bancroft Student Handbook.

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Late Work:

Late work can be turned in until the end of the quarter with no penalty. After the next quarter starts, late work will not be accepted unless you meet with Ms. Weiland for a specific circumstance. If you know that you will need an extension, please email or talk with Ms. Weiland BEFORE the due date. All assignments must be turned in at least one day before the end of the semester to be graded.

Cell Phone Policy:

Adhering to the Almond-Bancroft School District policy, students may have their phones with them in class, and should be put away unless the teacher explicitly tells students that they can use their phones. In Dramatic Literature, we will do some activities where students are able to use their phones. However, unless the phone is being used specifically for Dramatic Literature work, phones should be turned off and out of use.

Final Note:

As the year progresses, be aware of changes to the syllabus, which will be posted on Google Classroom. I challenge you to take academic risks and ask meaningful questions. This year, you will grow academically as a reader, writer, and student. Please feel free to contact me via email, and I will respond as soon as possible. I look forward to reading, writing, discussing, and growing with each and every one of you. Best of luck to your academic school year.

I agree and understand the Dramatic Literature Syllabus:

Your Signature:
