

# Senior English 42 Course Overview

## **Course Description:**

This course explores contemporary and classic literature in a variety of genres. Students will analyze and respond to literature, discuss themes and issues, and write essays. Works studied may include but are not limited to *Macbeth*, *All Souls*, and *The Kite Runner*. Students will continue to develop and expand vocabulary and participate in individual and group presentations. Students will write expository essays and complete the Senior Literary Research Paper.

## **Essential Questions:**

- What communication skills are essential for seniors to master before graduation?
- How will improving one's writing skills contribute to success in life after high school?
- How does one build the skills necessary to read, analyze, and understand literature, texts, and "every day" materials?
- How does reflection on learning help us to become life-long learners?

## **Academic Expectations of Student Learning: (as aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum**

### **Frameworks):**

Through this course, students will

- Employ active reading strategies to understand text.
- Deepen their understanding of a literary or informational work by relating it to its contemporary context, historical background or critical response.
- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of theme in a literary work and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.
- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of structure, and elements of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.
- Identify and analyze an author's diction and syntax and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.
- Write with a clear focus, coherent organization and sufficient detail for a variety of purposes.
- Apply knowledge of style, tone, and word choice in writing for different audiences.
- Gather information from a variety of sources, analyze and evaluate the quality of the information they obtain, and incorporate the research in their compositions and projects.
- Students will study the nuances of vocabulary, applying their knowledge to reading, writing, and speaking.
- Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and synthesize information with their own experiences in a variety of classroom settings

## **Literature:**

### **Required texts:**

- *The Kite Runner*
- *All Souls*
- *Macbeth*
- "By the Waters of Babylon"
- Two primary sources for the Senior Literary Research Paper
- Additional readings as assigned

### **Supplemental texts:**

- *Brave New World*
- *Maus I*
- *Last Night at the Lobster*
- Selected short stories
- Selected non-fiction

**Writing:**

**Core Writing Assignments:**

- Multiple Source Essay
- Senior Literary Research Paper
- Objective and Subjective Essays
- Practical Writing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Other supplemental writing assignments:**

- Multiple paragraph Expository Essay
- Narrative Essay
- Cover letter
- Resume
- Additional writings as assigned

**Vocabulary:**

- Words from Level F of Shostak's *Vocabulary Workshop*
- Word derived from the reading selections