

What is a hero? How does the journey—physical, spiritual, or otherwise—shape the hero? These are questions we will answer as we study a variety of literature from around the world that focuses on the hero’s journey. We will also work on writing proficiency, using accepted conventions of grammar, mechanics, and style.

**Reading:** We will read, interpret, and respond to the following material:

Gilgamesh, The Odyssey, Oedipus the King, various selections pertaining to the legend of King Arthur, Julius Caesar, Romeo and Juliet, and various stories from the biblical book of *Genesis*. Other selections we may read include Siddhartha, sections from The Iliad, and selected short stories and poems that are relevant to the course.

**Writing:** You will be expected to write *at least* eight papers for a variety of purposes, which may include narratives, research reports, and essays of comparison, exposition, persuasion, and argumentation, some of which will specifically address literary analysis. Timed writing will also be included.

**Enrichment:** Video documentaries, films, CDs, tapes, library media, visual art, computers, Internet resources, and project work will be employed to enhance the core curriculum.

**Rules:**

- **Respect:** We will show respect for each other, our selves, and our surroundings at all times.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is claiming another person’s idea/s as your own and will not be tolerated. Read the student handbook for the school’s policy on plagiarism.
- **Cheating:** See *Plagiarism* above.
- **Miscellaneous:** Students are expected to adhere to the policies set forth in the MAUHS Student Handbook.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the work that is done in each of the following categories: *Quizzes*, *Tests*, *Writing*, and *Class Participation*. Each category is worth 25% of the grade for the class. Mid-term exams are worth 10% of the grade for the first semester, and final exams are worth 10% of the final grade. Grades are cumulative throughout the year.

- **Quizzes:** A measure of day-to-day readiness, reading, and study. Includes reading checks to measure reading comprehension and recall.
- **Tests:** A measure of understanding of larger units of learning, including periods, cultures, genres, literary elements, and major works.
- **Writing:** A measure of grammar and mechanics mastery and overall writing ability. Includes writing strategies, writing for specific purposes and audiences, in-class writing, and final product.
- **Class Participation:** Includes all in-class activities, attitude, Internet assignments, and homework.

**Administrivia:**

- **Come prepared:** You are expected to come to class prepared to work. That means you should bring any books that you will need, including a notebook or binder, and a pencil or pen with black or blue ink.
- **Absences:** You are responsible for all of your work, even if you are absent on the day it is assigned. **It is up to you to find out what you missed.** Arrangements will be made for make-up on an individual basis. Please refer to the student handbook for excessive absences policy.

*Homework and other information is posted on my Website. Go to [www.mauhs.org](http://www.mauhs.org); click on “Teacher Websites”; Click on my name (Frank Barnes). You can contact me through this site, by emailing me at [fbarnes@svsu.org](mailto:fbarnes@svsu.org), or by calling – school, 447-7511; home, 447-1048.*

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Please sign, detach, and return this portion.

*I have read and understand the course introduction for the 9 Honors/Humanities Literature & Composition class.*

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mr. Barnes' Grading Policy

Grading for this class is based upon work in four categories:

- ✓ **Writing**—this comprises journals, essays, creative writing, and research papers, including rough drafts when appropriate.
- ✓ **Quizzes**—this includes vocabulary quizzes, reading checks, and other quizzes that measure understanding of a topic or material that covers small units or lesser sections of larger units of study.
- ✓ **Tests**—these are assessments of understanding of larger concepts and complete works, such as when we finish a unit on short stories, a novel, a play, or some other major learning module. Also, some essays will be counted as test grades or a combination test/writing grade. When this occurs, the student will be made aware beforehand.
- ✓ **Class Participation**—this includes participation in small groups, class discussions, in-class projects, and general preparedness for class. *Homework is also included in this section because a student must complete assigned homework in order to contribute to class in a positive manner.*

Each of the four categories listed above counts as 25% of the total grade. Since there are fewer test grades than quiz or class participation grades, the test grades carry more weight. For example, there may be three test grades as opposed to fifteen quiz grades in a marking period; in such a case, the individual test grade is worth the equivalent of five quiz grades. Grades are cumulative through the progression of the course.