

## **2024-25 Pre-AP English II Syllabus**

### **Archimedean Upper Conservatory**

Instructor: Carlos F. Alvarez

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### **Course Description:**

Pre-AP English II is an AP prep course that aims to arm students with the rhetorical and literary analysis strategies necessary for 11<sup>th</sup> grade AP English Language and Composition and 12<sup>th</sup> grade AP English Literature. Although Pre-AP English II will not feature an AP exam and does not have a direct college analogue, the course's content and rigor is college level, and will extensively feature AP-style assignments, quizzes, and tests. The course will have students digesting and analyzing a variety of literary works, from Medieval classics to contemporary plays, speeches, and novels. The overarching goal of Pre-AP English II is to help students transition into college-level critical readers and thinkers, engaging with and mulching through texts at a level beyond merely identifying an author's main idea, or listing pieces of textual evidence. Students will be expected to regularly produce theses about the texts that they read, approaching them from both rhetorical and literary perspectives. Students will connect their theses to the underlying themes of the texts they engage with, substantiating their arguments and analysis with textual evidence while respecting the subtleties and nuances of both the material and their classmate's opinions.

### **Major Themes:**

1. Analysis, whether rhetorical or literary, is infused with its author's perspective
2. Textual evidence is necessary to substantiate analysis
3. Understanding textual evidence requires a basic knowledge of literary devices, diction, syntax, etc.
4. Recognition of an author's strategies/devices requires serious engagement with the text
5. Serious engagement with different texts requires an open and curious mind
6. An open and curious mind seeks out, understands, and accepts other people's perspectives

**Grading Policy:** All grades will be based on a percentage system. Forty percent (40%) will be earned on major tests, thirty percent (30%) on quizzes, twenty percent (20%) on class work, participation and class work evaluations, and ten percent (10%) on homework.

Students will obtain these grades on average per one quarter:

- Written Test (every 2/weeks) = 3 to 4 grades (graded using AP rubrics)
- Intro + Thesis or Body Paragraph assignments = 2 to 4 grades (graded using AP or AP style rubrics)
- Multiple Choice or Written Response Pop Quizzes (unannounced) = 2 to 3 grades
- Projects/Assignments/Worksheets = Varies (expect minimum 2/week)
- Grading Scale: according to Student Handbook.

### **Tests/Quizzes/Classroom Evaluation:**

- **Test/quizzes** - Generally once per week or at the end of a unit. Pop quizzes are not announced.
- **Classroom Evaluation** - Throughout the quarter students will be evaluated for class participation and involvement. Examples of activities that will be taken to consideration: discussion participation, oral/written response, on time completion of laboratories, and projects.

### Teacher/Student/Parent Communication:

- Teacher – Student communication is done via email or in person in class
- Teacher – Parent communication is done via school email: [carlos.alvarez@archimedean.org](mailto:carlos.alvarez@archimedean.org)
- To schedule parent-teacher conference please email the request to the above-mentioned school email

### Homework

- HW posts can be found in multiple places – Archie, Archie Resources, student email, textbook, and/or a physical handout
- Notes and lecture should be reviewed, re-written nightly (15-30 min)
- Complete the assigned projects, adhere to due dates
- Study for exams (best way is to regularly apply analytical strategies to media/lit you enjoy!)
- Review the lecture slides before every new chapter
- Watch all assigned videos, and/or short movies
- **Read all materials assigned**

### Make up: In keeping with the school's guidelines as well as M-DCPS guidelines,

- Students with ***unexcused absences*** **will not** be provided make-up work, **unless decided otherwise by a teacher.**
- Students with ***excused absences*** will have one day for each excused absence to make up the work. This includes daily grades and test.
- If a student is **absent, it is his/her responsibility** to obtain any assignments missed while absent. Students are expected to consult missed assignments with their classmates first and complete the missing work.
- **Late work, past five (5) days, is not accepted. Once homework is late an increment of ten (10) points is deducted from the grade, after the homework is graded for the correctness.**
- **Missed exams must be taken within the time allowed no longer than three (3) days. Prior arrangement is required.**
- If you are absent during a written test, you must speak with me to schedule one

### Student Support:

- Every weekday between 7:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. I will be available to provide academic support if extra help/explanation is needed. Student is responsible to communicate with me a day ahead in person.

### Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. As per *MDCPS Code of Student Conduct*, Academic Dishonesty is a minimum Level II Violation and is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:

- Cheating – the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
- Fabrication – falsification or invention of any information
- Assisting – helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
- Tampering – altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents
- Plagiarism\* – representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own (includes use of AI tools)

**\*As a condition of taking this course, all homework papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted homework papers will be**

included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

### **Course Expectations**

Students are expected to be in their seat, ready to begin the class before the bell rings. Please familiarize yourself with the school's policies and procedures delineated in the Curriculum Bulletin / Parent & Student Handbook as these same rules apply to the classroom. Students are expected to have required course materials for each class, no exceptions.

The student is responsible for the following:

- Completing all homework assignments
- Turn in all work assigned by the due date (there will be NO late work accepted)
- Ask for assistance when needed from parent and/or instructor
- Studying the content of information daily

### **Consequences for not Meeting Classroom Expectations**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Consequence – Verbal warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Consequence – Parent contact (phone call or e-mail)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Consequence – Referral to the administration

Depending on the severity of the disruption, the teacher may bypass the order of consequences listed above.

### **Requirements for class:**

- Assigned reading hardcopy, and/or e-form assigned reading
- Classwork journal (either composition or well-organized binder with lined paper)
- Lined paper, blue/black ink pens, **NO PENCILS**
- One color pen/highlighter

**Classroom Rules:** Students are expected to follow the guidelines of Student-Parent Handbook/Code of Conduct at all times.

- Show respect for yourself, others, and their property
- No drinking or eating in the classroom.
- Students are expected to be in their assigned seats with all the required supplies before the bell rings.
- Students are expected to begin work as soon as the bell rings and follow the instructions in order to complete the assignments on time.
- Students are expected to raise their hand and wait for their name to be called out to answer the question or ask to leave the seat.
- Students are expected to place their TURNED OFF cell phones into the ASSIGNED phone pockets located by the classroom door. Not following the requirement will result in confiscating the cell phone.

**PRINT, SIGN and UPLOAD to ARCHIE ONLY this page (bring the hard copy to class) – Homework Grade, Due Friday 8/16**

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Mother/Guardian Name:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>	<b>Email address:</b>
<b>Father/Guardian Name:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>	<b>Email address:</b>
<b>Student NAME:</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Email address:</b>

My child and I have read and understand the course expectations for Mr. Alvarez's Pre-AP English II course for 2024-25 at Archimedean Upper Conservatory. I have her contact information and will contact her with any questions or concerns that I may have.

PRINT Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student:

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PRINT Name of Parent/Guardian:

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Signature of Parent/Guardian:

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