

**Mike's "English" Class  
Philosophy and Lit.**

**Eng. Lit. Survey/Thematic Lit./World Lit./ Film Lit.- Depending on your home high school**

*"Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world"*  
Shelley

*"The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it"*  
Karl Marx

**Office Hours: 8:30-11:30 M-F, Middle College Office**

**Phone: (office) 949-7146 (cell) 922-0598**

**email: michael.wilson@mvla.net or [wilson222@gmail.com](mailto:wilson222@gmail.com) Send all Work to: [fcmikework@gmail.com](mailto:fcmikework@gmail.com)**

**Website address: [foothillmiddlecollege.org](http://foothillmiddlecollege.org)**

This year we will look at literature as a reflection of the ideas that have helped to shape our world. Trish and I have developed thematic units that will be the foundation for both classes. It is important to understand that this is an interdisciplinary course, thus it might not seem like your traditional "English" class. We will examine literature, philosophy, psychology, and history. Our goal is to achieve a more complete understanding of the complexity of human experience. During each unit of study you will complete projects and take exams that will count in both classes. We hope that this unique approach will help all students gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

## **Units of Study**

### **Unit 1**

#### ***The Individual and the Educational System***

In this short, introductory unit we will examine the role of the educational system in our lives. How has "school" shaped who we are and how we think about ourselves? Text: Education Reader

### **Unit 2**

#### ***The Individual and the State***

During this unit we will focus on the issues surrounding the relationship between the individual and the state. Most of our study will focus on major philosophical and literary works that deal with the rights and responsibilities of the individual and what it means to be human.

Some writers we might look at: Locke, Marx, Fromm, Thoreau, King, Camus, Kesey, Frost, Swift, Sartre, Sophocles and other writers. Texts: The Stranger, Antigone, Crito.

### **Unit 3**

***The Individual and the Media*** Text: Fast Food Nation

### **Unit 4**

***Perspectives on Family*** Text: Sula, A River Runs Through It

### **Unit 5**

***Global Responsibility***

### **Unit 6**

***Constructing a Life Philosophy-Expressions in Film***

*Grading:* The final grade breakdowns will be based on the following:

20% Unit Exams

40% Class Participation/Quizzes/ Class Notebook/homework/Creative Writing

40% Projects/Essays/ Presentations