

AP English Literature & Composition

Course Overview

This course is designed for highly motivated 12th grade students. It is a college level English course with strenuous requirements related to reading, analyzing, and interpreting literature and writing analytical responses. Students will learn to use the modes of discourse and recognize the assumptions underlying various rhetorical strategies. Students will also acquire an understanding of the resources of the language and of the writer's craft. They will develop critical standards for the appreciation of literature as a shared experience. Students will be challenged to be independent thinkers, while keeping a close eye on their own progress and seeking help when necessary.

After successfully completing this course, the student will:

- demonstrate knowledge of connotation, metaphor, irony, syntax, diction, and tone.
- apply critical standards independently, orally and in writing to specific literary works.
- use effective rhetorical strategies in writing tasks.
- write for a variety of purposes, and in a variety of modes and styles. explain the relationships among styles, subjects, and audiences in writing and in literature.
- recognize relationships between literary works and contemporary experience and/or historical contexts.

Writing Assignments

Writing assignments are crucial in this course. Students will write a variety of essays over the course of the term, most timed and in class. Students will be writing to understand, writing to explain, and writing to evaluate. Each essay will have a particular thematic or analytical focus, including: controlling tone, establishing and maintaining voice, achieving appropriate emphasis through diction and sentence structure, examination of figurative language, and the effective use of textual references to highlight the social and historical values of a works.

Students are encouraged to revise their essays. In addition to initial evaluation by the teacher, students will engage in active peer editing and revision. Revisions for final

assessment are due one week after originals are turned in.

Writing Assignments

Timed Writings (weekly)

The AP exam format will be used including the 40-minute time frame. These essays are actual questions from previous AP exams and will assess the knowledge and understanding of the text. The AP rubric is used to score these writings.

Literary Terms

An extensive list of literary terms is provided to each student at the beginning of the academic year. Terms, definitions, and examples are provided for complete understanding. Students will be quizzed and tested throughout the year.

Summer Reading

Students are to read the following novels prior to the start of the school year:

Life of Pi - Yann Martel

How to Read Literature Like a Professor - Thomas C. Foster

Quizzes will be given during the first week of classes. Writing assignments using the AP prompts will be given.

Novels

The Stranger - Albert Camus

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston

The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood

“The Canterbury Tales”-Geoffrey Chaucer

Short Stories

“The Lottery”

“The Destructors”

Brown” “How I Met My Husband”

“Everyday Use”

“A Good Man is Hard to Find”

“A Modest Proposal”

“Eveline”

“Young Goodman

“Roman Fever”

“A New Leaf” “Miss Brill” “Araby”

“Good Country People”

Plays

Julius Caesar – Shakespeare

Hamlet – Shakespeare

A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen

Poetry

Various selections covering a range of time periods and styles.

Test Preparation

Extensive preparation for the AP Literature exam will include practice objective tests, review of answering strategies, and practice AP essays.

Grading

Assessment of understanding of literature is done primarily through essays. Some quizzes are given (reading quizzes, weekly vocabulary quizzes.) Knowledge of literary terms is tested. Contributions to discussions, leadership in group work, compliance with assignment deadlines, and other positive contributions to class will also affect the grade. There is no extra credit work offered in this class.

Essays/Tests	45%	
Vocabulary	15%	
Quizzes	10%	
Homework/Classwork	15%	
Final Exam	15%	