

AP English: Literature and Composition
Course Outline and Syllabus
2011-2012

The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to prepare you for college level literary analysis and writing. You will be reading, on average, a novel or play every two weeks and writing on each piece of literature. By the time you finish this class you should be ready to pass the AP exam and succeed in college English.

Required Text: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, by Thomas C. Foster

Course Outline

Writing: You will write several multi-draft essays including the college essay. You will write essays synthesizing three to five sources, persuasive essays, analyses of poetry and satire, and timed writings using released AP prompts. Each essay will use the Nine Point AP rubric. Often, you will choose your own essay topics.

Reading: We will read at least 10 novels and 6 plays as a class. With each novel or play I expect you to read critically and actively. Please prepare questions, observations and/or interesting topics for every class discussion. Our goal is to read, question, and explore literature as college students. I encourage you to buy your own copy of the books, if possible, so you may practice annotating texts—a valuable college-level skill. Finally, expect a reading quiz for each novel or play.

Poetry: We will be using Laurence Perrine’s poetry book *Sound and Sense* throughout the year. Every other week, or so, you will be assigned a chapter to read and will be expected to complete the assigned exercises. Every other Thursday, or so, we will have a class discussion and analyze poems using the techniques covered in that week’s chapter. We will do this as a class, in groups, or as homework.

Grammar: Instruction will focus on common errors, and your idiosyncratic grammar problems based upon reading your essays. I may also assign specific chapters or pages in our grammar book for you to review and complete as necessary. Expect mini-lessons throughout the year dealing with introductions, thesis statements, constructing sentences, punctuation, etc.

AP Test Preparation: We will take several practice AP multiple choice and essay tests. After each test we will analyze your scores and the rationale for the answers. We will study AP literary terms, apply them to the literature and poetry we will read this year and review every novel and play we have read in preparation for the test in May.

Grading: Grades are based upon a standard point scale. By the end of each semester you can expect to complete well over 1000 points worth of work. While grades are important, I hope you will realize that learning and experiencing literature is also important!

Plagiarism: This is a serious issue! If I discover you have plagiarized from any source I will notify Administration and your parents. You will receive an “F” on the assignment and a lowering of your semester Citizenship grade. Please, when in doubt cite your source!!!

Late Work: You may turn in **only one late assignment for the entire year**, but you must notify me in advance. **Otherwise, late work will never be accepted.** A malfunctioning computer or printer is not an acceptable reason for late work. If your computer is not working do not email your work to me. Simply turn in a hand-written copy of your work the day it is due.

Absences: If you have been absent, please pick up any handouts you may have missed from the tote box labeled “AP”. Also, it is your responsibility to remember to make up any quizzes or tests given when you were absent. All make-ups must be completed within two weeks of your return. You may take the tests on Tuesdays or Thursdays at lunch. Turn in any assignments due during your absence the day you return to school. You may not make up any work if your absence was uncleared.

Please share this information with your parent or guardian and ask them to sign it at the bottom. The signed “AP Course Outline and Syllabus” is due Friday, August 26th.

Student’s name (Please print!!) _____ Period _____

Student’s signature _____ Student’s email _____

Parent or guardian’s signature _____

Parent or guardian’s email _____

Syllabus

Semester 1

Note: the following is a general outline. Each class and year is different and some things may be omitted and others added. I will make sure you are kept abreast of any changes!!

Weeks 1-2: Review summer reading: *Frankenstein*
How to Read Literature Like a Professor

Weeks 3-4:

Texts: *The Awakening*, Chopin and/or *A Room With A View*, Forrester
The Story of an Hour, Chopin
The Yellow Wallpaper, Gillman

Weeks 5-9 Satire

Texts: *1984*, George Orwell; *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley; *The Importance of Being Ernest*, Oscar Wilde
Handouts: Horace Satires “The Simple Life”, “How to Get Rich Quickly” and “The Country Mouse”
Juvenal’s satires 1 and 3,
Swift’s “A Modest Proposal”

Weeks 10-11

Text: *A Lesson Before Dying*, Earnest Gaines

Weeks 12-16 Existentialism (Week 14: Thanksgiving Break)

Texts: *Bartleby, the Scrivener*, Herman Melville; *The Stranger*, Albert Camus;
The Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad
Handouts: Existentialism and Nihilism

Week 17:

- Chapter 9 poetry
- Third practice AP test

Weeks 18-19 Winter Break ☺

Weeks 20-21

Text: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Alexander Solzhenitsyn
Handout: Excerpt from Victor Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*

End of Semester 1!!!

Semester 2

Weeks 1-7 Tragedy (Week 6: February Break)

Texts: *Oedipus Rex*, Sophocles; *Macbeth*, Shakespeare; *Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller

Handouts: Aristotle's theory of tragedy
Miller's "Tragedy and the Common Man"
Freud's "The Oedipus Complex"

Weeks 8-9:

Text: *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury or *Animal Farm*, George Orwell

Weeks 10-15 (Week 14 Spring Break)

Texts: *Othello* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, Shakespeare

Handouts: Northrop Frye's "Anatomy of Comedy"

Weeks 16-18

Text: TBA

Activities: Preparation for AP test

- Intensive review of texts, handouts and main ideas of the year. Expect to lead class discussions on a novel or play and/or present a lecture.
- Review of AP Literary Terms
- Review of poetry chapters 3-13

Weeks 19-20

Text: Your choice!

- Presentation of final projects

Week 21 Graduation!!!!