

AP English Literature and Composition

2010-11

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Course Description:

AP Literature and Composition is designed to engage students in close reading, discussion, and analysis of novels, plays, poetry, and non-fiction essays and literary criticism. While the course devotes a significant amount of time to preparing students for the AP Literature exam in May, the class seeks to look beyond the exam itself toward more lasting purposes, namely, developing a solid and enduring Christian worldview lens through which students can interpret all texts. We will learn how to read interesting, thought-provoking texts (from a variety of people and places) with enough depth that we can have interesting, engaging discussions, write in a clear, intelligent manner, grow as people and have fun in the process.

AP Literature is a rigorous, college-level course, and some of the novels will deal with adult themes and situations; however, difficult issues will be addressed from a Biblical perspective. Students should expect homework every night, frequent writing assignments, and an accelerated reading schedule. Not staying current with the reading schedule, or relying on Spark's Notes, is not an option. Students who have questions about their schedules should direct them to Miss Carol Wong at ccsreg@ccs-rams.org.

Required Textbooks:

Sound and Sense, 12th edition; Perrine; ISBN: 141 3030 548
King Lear, Shakespeare; Oxford School; ISBN: 019-8320-54 X
As I Lay Dying, William Faulkner; ISBN: 0 679 73225 X
Pygmalion, George Bernard Shaw; ISBN: 158-049-3998
Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad; ISBN: 978-014-144167-2
Cliff's AP English Literature and Composition, Casson; ISBN: 0764586866
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce; ISBN: 978-0-14-243734-6
Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison; ISBN: 0679732764
The Glass Menagerie, Tennessee Williams; ISBN: 978-0811214049
The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald; ISBN: 978-0743273565

Note: You may be able to find some of these books on a site such as www.bookfinder.com or by looking at the new/used book links on Amazon. Also, "Google Shopping" is a great site that includes tax and shipping costs

for easy comparison. Be sure to get the 12th edition of the *Sound and Sense*.

In addition to the above resources, students may be asked to periodically download and read articles and stories from the Internet.

Accelerated Reader: There is no AR requirement for AP Literature.

Required Materials:

3-ring binder with pockets on the inside front and back covers. **This binder will be dedicated to AP Lit and will not be shared with other classes.**

I highly recommend a 1 1/2 or 2-inch binder (3-ring), which you need to bring to each class.

Composition journal or spiral notebook

Highlighter(s)

Black ink pens for timed writes. **Note: The College Board requires you to write your essays in black or very dark ink.**

Blue or other colors OK for other work as long as they are readable and do not smear.

Green and red pens for marking papers

#2 pencils—mechanical preferred

8 1/2 x 11-inch college ruled, loose leaf paper

File dividers—8 recommended (you might consider the kind with pockets to hold loose papers). **Label them:** Resources, Poetry, Prose Analysis, Novels, Plays, AP Notecards & Test Prep, Vocabulary, Other

Grading:

Quarter:

Essays/Writing: 45%

HW/CW: 20%

Tests/Quizzes: 15%

Project: 15%

Participation: 5%

Semester:

Quarter Grades: 90%

Final Exam: 10%

Please note that AP Lit is a skills class, and grades will not be affected by the AP Exam score.

Class Discipline

Promptness and Preparation for Class

When the bell rings, you are expected:

- to be ready to begin class. Students who arrive late without a pass will be marked tardy. Late arrivals are disruptive to the class and an overall distraction. Please try to manage your time to minimize tardies. Due to the nature of AP courses and the importance of being in class, students with more than ten (10) absences a quarter or fifteen (15) absences a semester will be dropped from the class
- to have whatever materials are needed—pens, pencils, books, binders, and homework assignments. Please bring your AP Literature binder to every class. I also will tell you what books to bring. Except in an emergency, please do not ask to go to your locker to retrieve these items.
- to have already turned in homework—place it in stacks on my table. You will know what is due by looking at the schedule on the whiteboard. I will not remind you to turn in homework, so please take the initiative. For essays, do not paper clip them or fold down one corner to hold the pages together.
- to **read the whiteboard** daily for assignments, due dates, changes in the schedule, and any other miscellaneous information. The schedule should be copied from the board immediately after entering the classroom.
- to **show respect** to *every* individual in the classroom

Rules for Written Work

1. Use standard school heading on **8 1/2 x 11-inch** paper. **Leave margins on both sides of the paper.** Assignment title should always be written in the center of the paper under the standard heading. A standard school heading includes your name, class, due date, and type of assignment (test, quiz, timed write, rough draft, or final draft.):

Name
AP Lit

Due Date
Assignment

2. All rough and final drafts of writing assignments, as well as any journal writes must be:

Typewritten
Times New Roman #12 font
1 1/4-inch margins
double-spaced

3. Handwriting is a critical element of AP Lit. Not only do I need to be able to read your writing, the AP readers will need to do so as well. Illegible assignments will be returned to you and will not receive credit.

4. All essays (both rough and final drafts) must be submitted to www.turnitin.com. Essays not submitted to turnitin.com will receive **50 percent credit maximum**.

Rules for Late and Missing Work

The following policies will govern late and missing work:

Students are responsible to turn in assignments on time—watch the whiteboard for due dates.

If you know you will be absent on the date an assignment is due, you are responsible to turn it in **before** leaving or the assignment will be marked late.

Late work due to an unexpected, excused absence (such as illness) may be made up without penalty within one day of the absence. (Contact me in advance if you think you will have difficulty with a deadline.)

Scores for major assignments (any assignment worth more than 20 points), such as projects and process essays, will decrease 10 percent for the first day late and 5 percent for each day thereafter.

All other late work (any assignment worth 20 points or less), such as homework assignments or study guides, will be reduced 25 percent for the first day late and an additional 10 percent for each day thereafter.

All late work must be turned in by the cut-off date announced in class. All missing work will receive a 25 percent F.

If you experience computer or printer problems, you are still responsible to turn your assignment in on the day it is due. If you need to use the school's printer, you must plan ahead. Other options include e-mailing your assignment to a friend and asking him or her to print it for you.

Other Potential Problem Areas

Plagiarism (using the words of another without attribution) will absolutely **not** be tolerated. Any plagiarized work will receive an automatic zero percent F and disciplinary referral.

Cheating in any form will absolutely **not** be tolerated. Students who cheat will receive an automatic zero percent F and a disciplinary referral.

In Conclusion

My expectation is that you will do your best. This includes reading the literature, staying current with assignments, and avoiding procrastination—especially on major projects. I am ready and available for conferences, but it is your responsibility to approach me if you need additional help. You may make an appointment to see me before school, during lunch, or via e-mail.

If there is disagreement or confusion about a grade or class policy, please **write me a note** outlining your concerns. I want you to feel you have been assessed fairly, but I do not want to take up class time discussing grades. If necessary, you may make an appointment to see me before school or during lunch. I reserve the right to have the final say in a grade.