

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Course Syllabus

Course Description:

The A.P. English Literature & Composition class is the equivalent of a college/university level English class, including the intellectual challenges of a rigorous workload typical of an undergrad literature/humanities course. The purpose of this course is to prepare students for the A.P. Exam they will take in early May, with the expectation of earning an acceptable score that will earn them college credit.

Reading Assignments:

Because this is an advanced class, students can expect to spend much time, both in and out of class, reading and writing extensively. Students will read a variety of literary works from several genres and periods (16th-21st century), focusing on an author's use of language to convey meaning and a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. It is important that students commit to the reading assignments, which means reading the entire assignment, on time, and sometimes more than once, in order for students to refine their skills in reading comprehension, textual analysis and close reading.

Writing Assignments:

Because writing is an integral part of this course, students will write numerous papers with major writing assignments to include critical literary analysis (expository, analytical and argumentative) and in class timed essays. These assignments will undergo revision as a result of peer editing and teacher conferencing. During this time students will work on the following:

1. Developing a balance of generalization and specific, illustrative detail
2. Developing logical organization enhanced by such specific techniques as traditional rhetorical structures, graphic organizers, and work on repetition, transitions and emphasis.
3. Developing a variety of sentence structures
4. Establishing an effective use of rhetoric including controlling tone and a voice appropriate to the writer's audience

Shorter writing assignments will include creative writing assignments, "thought pieces," reaction/response papers and annotations. Students will also be required to keep a reader's response journal and there will be regular reading and vocabulary quizzes.

Oral communication is another important element of the course, and students will have many opportunities to improve these skills through presentations and class discussion, which will be student centered; therefore, students will be expected to participate regularly in both small group and classroom discussions. Each student will also be expected to lead the rest of the class in discussion at least once each semester.

Grading Policy:

Daily Work-40%

Annotations, Participation, Performances, Reader Response Journals, Thought Pieces

Data Sheets-10%

Final Assessments-50%

Quizzes, Papers, Tests, Timed Essays, Projects and Presentations

Class Guidelines:

One way to ensure success in this class is to be organized, prepared and willing to do your best. Please come to class on time and be sure to have all assignments completed. These year we will be using Google Classroom to access and keep track of assignments. It is also a place for us to communicate with each other. You may also visit my **Weebly** page for weekly lesson plans and sign up for test/assignment reminders through **REMIND**. Because this is considered a college level course, late work will NOT be accepted!! If there is a legitimate reason why you cannot meet a deadline for a major assignment, I suggest you see me ahead of time to see if we can work something out. As in college, plagiarism is UNACCEPTABLE at all times. This is not limited to major writing assignments but includes daily work as well. Unless you are specifically notified that you may work together on an assignment, **DO YOUR OWN WORK**. If I become aware of students copying from one another, or any other form of cheating, both parties will receive a zero and disciplinary action will be taken. Please note that cheating includes downloading papers from the Internet and/or using any other papers while writing your own. Your paper should not resemble any others!

Your required class materials include: **IPad, writing utensil(s), single subject notebook, and book when applicable**. I also recommend using a 3-ring binder (2") to help you stay organized, especially if you prefer the old-fashioned paper copies of handouts to the digital versions, which will be available on my **Weebly page** and/or in the **AP Lit. Google Classroom**.

Also, remember that punctuality is important, so be sure to be in your seat when the bell rings. Three tardies will result in one hour of Saturday School and count for one absence. Concerning absences, remember that you are responsible for making up all work missed during an absence.

This class is about learning and not about grades, G.P.A., or class rank. Each student has the opportunity to do well, provided he/she is willing to try hard and work hard. Together, we can share a positive learning experience.

GRADING SCALE

A	93.5-100	C	72.5-76
A-	89.5-93	C-	69.5-72
B+	86.5-89	D+	66.5-69
B	82.5-86	D	62.5-66
B-	79.5-82	D-	59.5-62
C+	76.5-79	F	0-59

SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Term 1 grade = 40%,

Term 2 grade = 40%

Semester Exam = 20%

(a student MUST pass 2 of the 3 with a minimum 60% in order to receive credit, and a no show for the exam = no credit for the class!)