

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Syllabus

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Course Description: *“This course of study is equivalent to an introductory college English course and is available to the student interested in taking the Advanced Placement Examination in English Language and Composition and/or English Literature and Composition.*

“English IV engages students in close reading and written analysis of imaginative literature. Students become adept at identifying and analyzing varied literary techniques as the techniques contribute to purpose and meaning of a selection. Selected writings from the literature of other countries, with an emphasis on British literature from varied time periods, serve as the basis for reading and for writing literary analysis. Fused with the study of literature is the continued refinement of composition skills, usage skills, and research skills. Opportunities for practice of listening/speaking and viewing/representing are inherent in the course.” (Taken from Blue Book/Curriculum Guide 2007).

This Advanced Placement English Literature and Writing course follows the curricular requirements described in the *AP English Course Description*. Throughout this course, you will be expected to discuss and analyze several genres of literature and to both discuss and dissect writing conventions (diction, syntax, figurative language, grammar, mechanics) and argument (ethos, pathos, logos). With each piece of literature we encounter, we will analyze and evaluate. Be prepared to voice opinions and aver analyses each day.

Reading Assignments:

C.S. Lewis said, “It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between.” Some of the literature you encounter in this course might be familiar; others will be new to you. Approach each reading assignment with vigor, even if it is a work you have read before. Outside reading is required.

Writing Assignments:

- **In Class Essays** – you will have at least 10 in class essays. These will be AP-style essays and will be graded using the AP Grading Scale. These are to help you prepare for the AP essay on the AP exam.
- **Research Paper** – you will write a research paper during the Spring Semester. This will involve an extensive examination of a critical issue with evidence from all forms of communication. Assignment will be explicit.
- **Evaluative Writing** – Each semester, you will write short papers that evaluate a particular work. These must be typed, revised, and must follow MLA documentation.
- **Creative Writing** – During this course, you will write a short story, a drama, or several poems that mimic a style recently studied. Other creative writing assignments may be given at the discretion of the instructor.
- **Peer Edit** – for most essays, we will take a day in class for peer editing.
- **Writing Workshop** – after you have completed a peer edit, you will meet with me and we will discuss your rough drafts.

Discussion

Many of our classes will be discussion-based, therefore, the outside reading is a must. When you read, I expect you to do a close reading of each piece. Your questions will career the discussions; I will participate. For most graded discussions, you will have to ask one though-provoking question about the work and make two intelligent comments on the work in order to make an “A” on the discussion – I will provide you a rubric.

Grading Information

You are responsible for your grade; not your parents, not me. Be sure to monitor your progress and discuss with me any problems or concerns you might have. It is not impossible to make an “A” in this class; you must simply do the work required to the best of your ability. I ask that you approach each assignment with anticipation and dedication. You will be graded on the work you do in class, your participation in class discussions, outside reading assignments, and outside writing assignments.

Grading Scale

90-100%	A
80-89.9%	B
70-79.9%	C
60-69.9%	D
50 and below	F

***No extra credit; grades are not rounded up – an 89.9% is a B.**

Teacher Philosophy

“The central task of education...is to confront the passivity of the pupil, challenging the mind to take charge of its own thought. All too often, people choices and statements are not their own...Words come out of their mouths, and actions are performed by their bodies, but what those words and action express may be the voice of tradition or convention, the voice of the parent, a friend, of fashion. This is because people have never stopped to ask themselves what they really stand for, what they are willing to defend as themselves and their own...They are like instruments of which fashion and habit play their tunes, or like stage masks through which an actor’s voice speaks.”

--Martha Nussbaum

I understand that as an AP student, grades matter. Grades determine scholarships, awards, honors, and recognition. Please do not get caught in the trap that grades are the only thing that matter. This “task of education” is to not only allow you to have a voice, but to help you determine the source of that voice. The text you encounter will challenge you, your belief system, and your ability. I expect you to *learn*, to *grow*, and to *stretch*. With each author we encounter, you will have the opportunity to see that person and that work within the confines of a world bigger than one person; you will also see your connection to your world and your society. Assessing that is not a number game; your intrinsic motivation and assessment will be just as vital to your education.

Tests/Assessments: Practice AP style multiple-choice exams each month, weekly vocabulary tests, and quizzes over materials.

Outside Reading: Most of the literature for this class will be read outside of class. When selections are not in your textbook or reader, I will provide them for you.

Late Work

Work will be due at the beginning of class. Work is not accepted after the tardy bell rings for your class period. Late work is accepted for no credit.

Plagiarism

There are two basic types of plagiarism – intentional and unintentional. *Both are absolutely wrong for this class. Do not plagiarize.* Intentional plagiarism includes, but is not limited to copying from a friend, from a source, downloading an essay, etc. **Intentional plagiarism will always result in a ZERO, with no chance to make up the assignment.**

Unintentional plagiarism – incorrect documentation, forgotten documentation, etc. will result in the chance to redo the assignment within a 48-hour time period.

Attendance: Be here. It makes your life easier. Please check the website daily for assignments. When you are absent, you have two days (per district policy) to hand in your make up work. ****District policy does NOT apply to long-term assignments.**

Tardiness: Unexcused tardies will not be tolerated. Refer to your handbook for the school policy on tardies.

PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE!

The following is from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* Sixth Edition. Please pay close attention to the definitions and rules.

“Plagiarism involves two kinds of wrongs. Using another person’s ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledging that person’s work constitutes intellectual theft. Passing off another person’s ideas, information or expressions as your own get a better grade or gain some other advantage constitutes fraud” (Gibaldi 66).

“You have plagiarized if

- you took notes that did not distinguish summary and paraphrase from quotation and then you presented wording from notes as if it were all your own.
- while browsing the Web, you copied text and pasted it into your paper without quotation marks or without citing the source.
- you presented facts without saying where you found them.
- you repeated or paraphrased someone’s wording without acknowledgement.
- you paraphrased someone’s argument or presented someone’s line of thought without acknowledgement.
- you bought or otherwise acquired a research paper and handed in part of all of it as your own” (Gibaldi 75).

I, _____, understand that if I plagiarize on any assignment, according to the above definition, I will receive **a failing grade** on the assignment. I understand this to be the accepted policy of the AP English Teachers, and I agree to adhere to this policy.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Keri Bostwick

Teacher Signature

August 11, 2009

Date