



Advanced Placement (AP) Literature and Composition Course Syllabus 2016-2017

Ed Easton
Room 70

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Parent/Student Resources:

Synergy web address for parents to login: www.vue.district6.org To track grades & attendance.

Course Overview

AP English Literature and Composition is for those students who want to go beyond the normal high school Language Arts experience and study literature and writing at the college/university level. AP English Literature and Composition does not simply *prepare* students for college; it *is* a college level English class. Students should be prepared to work hard and learn new ways of thinking about literature.

Unifying Concepts

Through an intensive study of literature including close reading, class discussion, and a range of writing activities, students will understand that:

- Literature provides a means by which to understand ourselves and others.
- Literature communicates ideas about what it means to be human.
- Literature is a reflection of the social, cultural, and historical background in which it was written.

Essential Questions

These challenging, recurring, and complex questions will frame the study of each piece of literature and each unit:

- How does literature lead us to understanding of ourselves and other people?
- How does literature portray the human condition?
- How does literature reflect the views, background, and historical background in which it was written?
- How does literature communicate universal themes?

Course Goals

1. To read and analyze complex imaginative literature from varied genres and historical periods from the sixteenth century to the present.
2. To analyze and understand the language and logic tools writers use to communicate and entertain.
3. To examine the effect produced by elements of literature such as structure, style, tone, figurative language, imagery, and symbolism, and how they contribute to the major themes of the work.
4. To practice critical written analysis of works of literature.

Content Covered/Course Learning Targets

Texts: *In addition to literature chosen by the student, students will read...*

- Meyer, Michael, ed. *The Bedford Introduction to Literature: Reading, Thinking, Writing*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008.
- DiYanni, Robert, ed. *Reading Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and the Essay*. New York: Random House, 1986.
- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Foster.
- *The Grapes of Wrath*, Steinbeck.
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Hurston.
- *Death of a Salesman*, Miller.
- *Hamlet or Macbeth*, Shakespeare.
- *Oedipus Rex or Antigone*, Sophocles.
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain.
- Short Fiction and Essays—as selected
- Poetry—as selected
- Modern Novels—as selected

Reading: *Students will be able to...*

- Make, test, and revise predictions as they read
- Make inferences about content, abstract ideas, and events in a text
- Find and use appropriate text support for inferences
- Analyze texts to make generalizations
- Differentiate between weak and strong textual support
- Make connections between conclusions they draw and other beliefs or knowledge
- Identify rhetorical strategies used by an author in a text
- Analyze an author's choice of rhetorical strategies

Writing: *Students will be able to...*

- Develop and strengthen writing
- Write arguments to support claims
- Write informative and explanatory texts to share information/ideas
- Write narratives, both personal and imaginative
- Write research/investigative papers
- Incorporate evidence to support analysis, reflection and research

Language: *Students will be able to...*

- Demonstrate command of Standard English: grammar, conventions, and usage
- Apply knowledge of vocabulary: including meaning (literal and figurative), usage and context

Writing: Composition is a major focus of the course. Students will receive intensive preparation for the AP Exam, which consists of three essays in a two-hour period; timed writes will be completed often in class. Longer, two to four page literary analysis essays will be a common assignment, and occasional longer research papers will complete the writing experience. Students should leave class prepared for the demands of college and university composition.

Attendance: Attendance and participation are vital to success in AP Lit. Processing complex works of literature is not a skill best learned in isolation; sharing and receiving insights from other students, the teacher, and scholarly resources are all helpful. Students should make every effort to attend every class unless absence is unavoidable.

Performance Tasks:

- Timed essays based on past AP prompts and class questions
- Formal essays and research papers
- Reading, responding to, and discussing literature
- Personal essay
- Reading notes and annotation, double-entry journals, graphic organizers
- Class presentations
- Peer review and peer editing
- T-Conferences with teacher about improving writing
- Quizzes and tests

Grading:

<p>10% of Grade (weighted)– “Mastery of Learning Targets” as demonstrated by:</p>	<p>90% of Grade (weighted)- “Application of Learning” as demonstrated by:</p>
<p>Targeted Assignments: Graded assignments that help demonstrate student’s current level of understanding/progress toward mastery of learning targets.</p>	<p>Essential Assignments (Writing Projects/Work Samples). Growth on these projects (measured by the writing rubric) will determine grade.</p>

Late Work:

AP Literature and Composition is a college-level class, with a rigorous work load. Students should be prepared to commit to several hours of course work per week, including regular reading and writing assignments. Assignments are due at the beginning of the students’ class period on the due date. Any **unexcused** late work receives half credit for up to one week late, and up to 1/4 credit after one week past the due date. Students that miss class have the same number of days to make up the assignment as the number of classes they missed.

College Credit Options:

- **4 free credits of WR 121, English Composition I, are available through College Now! which is a Rogue Community College program.**
- **8 credits (two semesters) of WR 121 (English Composition I) and WR 122 (English Composition II) are available at a cost of \$164 per term through Southern Oregon University’s Advanced Southern Credit program.**
- **8 credits (two semesters) of ENG 104 (Intro to Literature) and ENG 105 (Intro to Literature II) are available at a cost of \$164 per term through Southern Oregon University’s Advanced Southern Credit program.**

- **The Advanced Placement Exam is offered nationally in early May at a cost of approximately \$90; the amount and type of credit awarded varies by college/university policy.**

Student Responsibilities: Success in AP Lit and Comp requires students to **reflect** on their work, **strive** to improve their skills and learn new skills, and **apply** their learning to a wide variety of writing tasks. In today's world, the ability to communicate effectively is crucial to success. To be successful, students must:

1. **Students are expected to Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible.**
2. Stay **actively involved** in class, **ask questions, contribute** to discussions
3. **Complete all assignments.** All assignments are designed to help you learn. They are not busy work.
4. **Ask for help and ask questions** of fellow students (when appropriate) and the teacher (when appropriate) when you are confused or don't understand.
5. **Do not distract** self and/or others students from the opportunity to learn.
6. **Follow the guidelines** set by the school and the district student behavior code, a cell phone referral will be issued as per CAHPS discipline policy.
7. Come to class **on time and prepared** with materials.
8. Remember that cell phones and other electronic devices should be OFF & out of sight unless explicitly teacher approved for a given activity & then it must only be used in the manner approved.
9. Students **MUST** avoid academic dishonesty, including **cheating** and **plagiarism**.
10. All policies in the CAHPS student handbook must be followed as written.

Parents: If you need to contact your student for an emergency or other reason during the school day, outside of our lunch period. PLEASE call the school phone number (541) 494-5260 and your student will be contacted. Please do not call or text your student's cell number during class because it causes disruption of the learning environment.

The simplest way to reach me is by e-mail at ed.easton@district6.org or by calling the CAHPS office; I try to answer messages within 24 hours. I am available for parent questions and meetings between 8:00 AM and the beginning of the school day, and during my prep period (1st Period). I am available to work with students before and after school, and during lunch by appointment.

AP Literature and Composition Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

Note: Please read this syllabus carefully and sign it, have your parents/guardians read it and sign it, and return this portion to me by Friday, September 23, 2016.

I have read and understand the course expectations and policies:

Print Student Name (Please print neatly)

Student Signature

You, your daughter/son, and I are partners in your students' education. You can help him/her succeed by checking with them as often as possible about their progress and looking with them at their assignment completion and/or needs. Please also plan on attending parent/student teacher conferences. Contact me any time with questions or concerns.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Email – please print neatly

Best Phone Number(s) to reach you

First preference: _____

Second option (if available): _____

It is often easiest to call during the day, is it okay to call you at work if there is something I would like or need to talk to you about your student? If yes, work number: _____