

AP ENGLISH COURSE OUTLINE

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP English is a rigorous UC college-level course. The course focuses on a variety of genres of literature by using major works from different literary periods concentrating on close reading of the texts. Writing skills are developed with attention to form, style, and structure as well as content. Intensive preparation for the AP Exam is part of the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students shall be able to:

- Develop accurate, perceptive reading through the critical analysis of major texts (English, America, European, Classical, and multicultural) representing various literary genres
- Acquire fluent, precise writing style through the preparation of essays about the text
- Understand the technique of poetry as it affects and enhances meaning in a poem
- Generate independent, thoughtful, and analytical discourse during class discussions
- Deliver oral presentations with poise and clarity
- Demonstrate knowledge and use of 150 SAT vocabulary words and 115 literary terms
- Develop essential writing skills and knowledge required to deal successfully with the questions on the AP English examination
- Synthesize literary concepts from all four years of study
- Evaluate quality of literature independently
- Analyze relationships between form and content independently

COURSE MATERIALS

1. *The Bedford Introduction to Literature 10th Edition* Michael Meyer
2. **AP Literature Bible (Digital)**
3. **Hamlet** William Shakespeare
4. **Things Fall Apart** Chinua Achebe
5. **Heart of Darkness** Joseph Conrad
6. **Inferno** Dante Alighieri
7. **The Old Man and the Sea** Ernest Hemingway
8. **Frankenstein** Mary Shelley
9. **How to Read Literature Like a Professor** Thomas C. Foster
10. **Lord of the Flies** William Goulding
11. **Oedipus Rex** Sophocles
12. **Crime and Punishment - Dostoyevsky** (Not available in bookstore. May be purchased for \$7.13 on Amazon "Signet Classic Mass Market Paperback)

COURSE WORK

Course work will consist of practice AP essays and multiple choice tests, reading a variety of literary texts, reading comprehension worksheets and tests, vocabulary and literary terms study, concise essay writing and individual/group research and presentations. Classroom discussion is an integral part of the participation grade in this course. Along with daily preparation for classroom discussion, which will necessitate alert, curious, and critical reading of the required texts, all students must contribute to discussion in a meaningful way.

PHS School Policies

- Do NOT come to my class late.
- While MOST work will be done in class (including essays), some submitted work will be subjected to random screenings for authenticity. In the event student work is found to be plagiarized (in part or as a whole), students will be sanctioned according to the PHS cheating policy

AP English Policies

- All assignments are due at the BEGINNING OF THE CLASS on the scheduled due date. Papers (essays, responses, projects, etc.) must be completely assembled (stapled, packaged) and ready for submission as you walk into the classroom before the tardy bell rings. **Late assignments will not be accepted. I will not accept them for a lower grade, as a sympathy gesture on my part, or as a direct result of a unique excuse on your part.**
- All essays will be done in class and will be handwritten.
- **Students must contribute to a classroom discussion in a meaningful and analytical way. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade. In class participation is LITERALLY a part of your grade. You want that A? Read the books and discuss them in class as much as possible.**
- Students must maintain an ongoing record of class notes. Submission of notes will occur in unscheduled intervals throughout the academic year for grading purposes.
- Students must attend class prepared on a daily basis. Borrowing supplies, texts or course materials from other students is prohibited. This is a UC-level course and daily preparation is required for success in this course. Required supplies: textbook, 3" binder, lined college ruled paper, 2 pens (blue or black ink only), white-out, highlighters, and a spiral notebook. It would also help to stock up on post-it notes for novel annotations.

Final Note

Our society values independence. By the time students reach their post-secondary goals, they are expected to have a certain level of **self-advocacy** which has been fostered throughout their years of schooling. The end goal is student independence. Ownership and responsibility are two areas of the effort necessary to build independence in students. In order to take ownership and responsibility, students must learn to **communicate effectively** with their teachers. If there is a situation that arises or complications occur that interfere with the success of your learning, please arrange a private time to speak with your teacher. Express your concerns and a solution may be met to help alleviate any of your issues.

On a final, FINAL note

It is seriously important that you participate in class discussions about the assigned literature. In order for me to fully prepare you for the AP Lit test, I need to know what YOU think. This class is not about me telling you what I think and then having you regurgitate what I already said back to me. You need to be able to analyze the literature on your own. This means that you MUST keep up with ALL reading and you MUST be prepared to discuss what you read in class. If this sounds like something that you cannot do, then AP Lit is NOT for you.