

“Lasciate ogni speranza / Voi ch’entrate”

The AP English Literature and Composition course is offered for high school students who wish to gain college credit by exam. The exam tests your ability to recognize stylistic elements of literature, and assess the effectiveness of literature. It tests your ability to write clear and organized standard essays in a limited amount of time. The AP Literature class is also a place for you to think about literature as an art form, and as such, how it reflects the spirit of the times in which it was created. With this in mind, I will be spending some time with you examining the historic zeitgeists of the literature we read. Also, I hope that you also observe literature as a reflection of human life, and seek to increase your own self-awareness, and awareness of the world around you: The timeless themes apply heaviest in times of transition—Who am I? Will I make a difference in the world? Where am I going? What do I seek? How will I bear loss? Where will I find joy? As seniors, these questions inevitably weigh upon you as you start your life journey away into the world.

General Preparation for AP Literature and Composition:

- Wide and varied reading of excellent world literature and English language poetry
- Good general knowledge of Greco-Roman mythology
- Good general knowledge of the Bible: Genesis and the Torah, the Gospel stories of Jesus, the Book of Job, the stories of Kings Solomon and David, the Song of Songs, selected psalms.
- *The Odyssey* and *Iliad* of Homer, *The Aeneid* of Virgil
- *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*, by Sophocles
- Good general knowledge of history and social and artistic movements through history.

Reading List: The AP draws from English literature throughout the ages and from around the world, from Anglo-Saxon works through modern literature. During class, we will focus on older works, literary movements in historical context, and elements of drama and poetry, with the expectation that you will read more accessible works on your own. This list changes from year to year, and I might throw other odd things at you as well:

- Selections from the Bible: Genesis; Job; Song of Songs; Psalms; The Book of Matthew; Revelations
- Greek classical plays: *Lysistrata*; *Agamemnon*; *The Oedipus Plays* of Sophocles *Iphigenia in Aulis*, *The Odyssey* and other epic poems.
- Anglo-Saxon and Medieval: *Beowulf*; *Everyman*; *Canterbury Tales*; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- Renaissance plays: *Hamlet*, and other Shakespeare plays; *The Misanthrope*
- 18th century novels: *Candide*, prose excerpts
- 19th century novels: *Pride and Prejudice*; *Frankenstein*; *Heart of Darkness*, *Independent Reading*
- Modern novels and plays: *The Sound and the Fury*; *Seize the Day*; *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*; *Death of a Salesman*; *Independent Reading Unit*
- Massive, massive poetry unit including T.S. Eliot’s *The Wasteland*

General Course Requirements: Complete all assignments! I don’t drop a grade!

- Research paper: 8 -10 pages on Romantic poetry. MLA, including literary criticism and original analysis.
- Group projects on various works. Group and individual analysis on works in class. Participation counts!
- Standard essays on works read: About two per month
- Essay exams in class: About two per marking period
- Homework: Reading. Analytic literary questions; generating effective plot summaries. Vocabulary lists.
- You **must** take the AP exam in May. You must take a mock exam if offered by the district.
- You **must** come in for tutorials if your grade falls below a C in any given marking period. **These will be scheduled after school or on Saturday mornings so that they do not interfere with your other classes.**

“No doubt the world is entirely an imaginary world, but it is only once removed from the true world.”

Materials Needed: You'll need a binder to take notes and jot down your literary observations, to store various handouts and a folder to save your papers. Separate your binder into four categories: 1) Grammar and Vocabulary, Poetry and Literary Terms 2) Narrative Elements 3) Rubrics and AP Study Guides 4) Notes on Novels and Plays. You should take notes during class discussions and lectures, and while reading as this material will be needed for writing assignments and exams. *Your papers must have specific evidence from the text, so you must keep track of citations.*

GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: Grammar reviews will happen in class and as comments on papers. Don't make the same errors or they will cost you in grades. Over the years, I have discovered that vocabulary review is a must in this course. The AP Literature exam is an unspoken vocabulary test, as having good to excellent vocabulary is needed to understand the poems and passages. You will need to keep a working list of vocabulary words.

METHODOLOGY:

Lectures: Sometime these are necessary to convey direct information and ideas to you. When we have lectures, you are expected to take notes, but I will also make Power Points available to you to review. These will include explaining basic standards of literary theory, and historical and artistic movements. It will include a review of visual and musical art forms that mirror artistic movements in literature.

Independent Work and Class Participation: You will be required to read long novels and other texts on your own to do well in this course. You will need to come to class prepared to present plot, characters and participate in discussion and analysis of the central ideas in the work. Participation will be graded. Essays will be assigned outside of class and will be expected to be handed in when due.

Modeling: Generally we will review a passage together as a class and participate in analysis together with my guidance. You will have time to discuss the work further in small groups and then practice writing essays.

Student Led: Students will present in teams – perhaps poetry or prose analysis or organizational methods for longer works of narrative fiction. This will take place after the first marking period when you all know a bit more about how to approach analysis of fiction.

Timed Essays and Multiple Choice Questions: Occasionally essays will be timed and given in class to prepare you for the AP exam. These will happen as regular assessments throughout the year. Towards the time of the exam, extra sessions for review will be required as part of your grade.

Student Projects: Students will have project presentations for *Lysistrata*, *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales*.

NOTE: I expect you to be able to effectively organize your time to get your work completed when it is due. It is expedient for you to learn to pace yourself and keep up. By law, I must keep track of attendance, and follow the school's attendance rules—keep that in mind as spring arrives, and senior slide seriously sets in. Classes and instruction will continue in AP Literature until the end of the school year, which means until the day your graduate – instruction will not stop after the AP Exam, nor after weirdly early final exams. Needless to say, all school rules apply in the AP classes as well as elsewhere in the school and for everyone else

It should go without saying that all work you hand in must be original, and not plagiarized. If you are caught plagiarizing your work, you will have one warning. If it happens more than once, you will be transferred out of the AP program and not receive AP credit.

Curriculum

The units for AP Literature are aligned with the Common Core State Standards and standards required by the College Board for AP Literature and Composition classes. *To continue throughout the year.

Units and Essential Questions	Description	Assessments
<p>I. What is Literature? / In the Beginning</p> <p>Review of AP Exam. Writing the Essays. Review of Summer Work: Read Through of Julius Caesar and The Tempest In the Beginning: Origins of Storytelling Genesis, Iphigenia, Lysistrata Oedipus at Colonus.</p> <p>Independent reading: The Book of Job. The Odyssey, The Illiad, The Aeneid, The Argonautica. or Paradise Lost *Correct formatting of papers and poetry citation. Use of Wilbur Cross library for literary resources. Correct grammar and punctuation.</p>	<p>This unit will give students a foundation in understanding literary analysis and the expectations of the course and the AP Exam. We will begin the year by reviewing summer texts. This will provide a general framework for approaching essay writing for poetry and longer narratives.</p> <p>In the second part of the marking period, we will tackle the origins of literature in establishing common credos to Aristotle's <i>Poetica</i>, Greek comedy, tragedy and epic poetry.</p>	<p>Formative: Four Summer Essays. Socratic Seminars / Written Questions for main texts Prose essay: <i>Paradise Lost</i> Epic poem theme /episode Poster project for Lysistrata Essays for Iphigenia and Oedipus. Multiple Choice</p> <p>Summative: 3-5 page paper rewrite of one essay. Proper formatting and MLA citation of text and incorporation of literary criticism.</p>
<p>II. The History of English and Exploration of Early Literature, Poetry Analysis</p> <p>The History of the English Language Poetry in Anglo-Saxon <i>Beowulf</i>: Demons and the Natural World Understanding elements of epic poetry Medieval World of Chaucer: <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>: Development of narrative form and psychologically real characters. Intensive Poetry analysis. / Sonnets Multiple choice practices /Prose essay</p> <p>Independent Reading: Song of Solomon; Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; Perrine's Sound and Sense, Candide, begin reading Pride and Prejudice.</p>	<p>This unit will give students an understanding of the historical development of English as a language and the development of poetic and storytelling forms. It will also give students some insight into the spirit of the times in Europe as culture wanes and waxes through the Dark Ages, medieval and Renaissance periods, touching on the mythology of Arthurian and other medieval romances, medieval lays and courtly love.</p> <p>Students will view these eras through time by assessing visual art from Greco-Roman era through the Renaissance.</p>	<p>Formative: Socratic Seminar for main texts and poems. <i>Beowulf</i> presentation <i>Canterbury Tales</i> presentation Poetry Homework Analyses Two Poetry Essays / Sonnets Prose essay Multiple Choice</p> <p>Summative: 3-5 page paper rewrite of one essay. Proper formatting and MLA citation of text and incorporation of literary criticism.</p>

Units and Essential Questions	Description	Assessments
<p>III. Romanticism</p> <p>What is Romanticism? How does Age of Enlightenment ideology lead into the Romantic and modern eras? How do these eras influence the Modern era? Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> and Age of Enlightenment.</p> <p>Jane Austen: Her sense and sensibility, although we are reading <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>.</p> <p>Romantic Odes and poetry.</p> <p>Prose essays and multiple choice practices.</p> <p>Independent Reading: <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>, <i>Frankenstein</i>, begin reading <i>Hamlet</i></p>	<p>This unit will give students an understanding of the cultural changes in Europe from the Age of Enlightenment through the Romantic Era. Connections to classicism and medieval movements in art and literature will be drawn. Understanding cultural developments during these eras will enrich students' ability to analyze literature and poetry of the times.</p>	<p>Formative:</p> <p>Socratic Seminar for main texts and poems.</p> <p><i>Candide</i>: Essay analysis of episodic plot structure, similar to epic poetry.</p> <p><i>Pride and Prejudice</i>: Essay analysis of passion and logic in relationships</p> <p><i>Frankenstein</i>: Essay revisiting the monsters and medieval mysticism as psychological function.</p> <p>Poetry essays</p> <p>Prose essay</p> <p>Multiple Choice</p> <p>Summative:</p> <p>10-15 page Romantic poetry paper</p> <p>Proper formatting and MLA citation of text and incorporation of literary criticism.</p>
<p>IV. Hamlet and the Modern Era</p> <p>What does it mean to be human in a world of violence and malaise?</p> <p>Introduction: The beginning of the 20th century in art and literature, the entre-guerre era, and the postmodern world.</p> <p>Texts will include: <i>The Waste Land</i>, <i>The Hollow Men</i>, Poetry of World War I, <i>Hamlet</i></p> <p>Independent Reading: <i>Pale Horse, Pale Rider</i></p> <p><i>The Sound and the Fury</i>, <i>A Farewell to Arms</i>, <i>Johnny Got His Gun</i>, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, <i>Catch 22</i>, <i>Going After Cacciato</i>, <i>The Invisible Man</i>, <i>Beloved</i>.</p>	<p>This unit will introduce the Modern era and connect back to the Dark Ages: The violent 20th century unfolds with internal malaise and apocalyptic visions as two World Wars threaten to erase civilization.</p> <p>AP Exam Preparation.</p> <p>Shakespeare's play <i>Hamlet</i>, proves especially timeless in its reflection of the darkness within and coping with something psychologically untenable.</p>	<p>Formative:</p> <p>Socratic Seminar for main texts and poems.</p> <p><i>The Waste Land</i> analysis</p> <p><i>Hamlet</i> Scene Analysis</p> <p>Multiple Choice</p> <p>Prose Essay</p> <p>Summative:</p> <p>3-5 page paper rewrite of Hamlet paper.</p> <p>Proper formatting and MLA citation of text and incorporation of literary criticism.</p>