Student Syllabus for AP English Literature and Composition

Introduction

To quote the *AP English Course Description* for English Literature and Composition, this course “engages students in the careful reading and analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work’s structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone.” (45)

Writing is an integral part of this course. Writing assignments will be frequent and varied. The writing assignments will focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. The major writing assignments will occur every two weeks and will be timed writings. The teacher will make comments and criticisms on the writings and students will revise, revisit, and rewrite their essays to perfect them for better clarity, insight, and eloquence. There will also be frequent journal writing assignments and several long-term writing assignments done outside of class that may be researched and will be from three to six typed pages in length.

Course Objectives

Students should be able to:

- Develop accurate, perceptive reading through close study of major texts (English, American, and world classics) representing various literary genres.
- Acquire a fluent, precise writing style through the preparation of essays about the texts
- Understand the technique of poetry (such as scanion and metrical variations) as it affects and enhances meaning in a poem
- Generate independent, thoughtful, and analytical discourse during class discussions
- Deliver oral reports with poise and clarity

Textbooks

Supplemental Readings

Students must purchase the following novels which are not in the above-referenced texts:

- *Wuthering Heights*. Brontë
- *Madame Bovary*. Flaubert
- *The Turn of the Screw*. James
- *Heart of Darkness*. Conrad
- *Howards End*. Forster
- *The Metamorphosis*. Kafka
- *The Stranger*. Camus
- *The Picture of Dorian Grey*. Wilde
- *1984*. Orwell

Instructor Resources


Course Content

**Grammar**
Grammar is taught from a contextual perspective, depending on the relevant needs of the class as revealed in their writing assignments.

**Vocabulary**
Vocabulary is taught from a contextual perspective and will be taken from the major reading assignments given to the class.

**Literary Terms**
An on-going Literary Terms Glossary will be given by the teacher and retained by the students in their Literature Binder.

**Writing**
Throughout the course, students will be expected to complete a variety of college-level writing assignments. These assignments can range from the informal paragraph which describes the reader’s response to the imagery of a poem or prose passage to the formal analytical essay that will be revised and edited multiple times.

There will be regular timed essays and timed AP multiple choice practices.
All writing will be graded on the College Board’s nine-point essay rubric in which the student will be trained early in the year. Any assignment receiving a grade of less than a six on the scale must be revised.

As this is a college-level course, all writing assignments will be required to meet the criteria of the College Board AP English Course Description (2007-2008).

**Fall Reading Schedule**

- Unit on Romanticism (four weeks)
  
  *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

  Selected poetry from John Keats, Robert Browning, Lord Byron and William Wordsworth

- Unit on Tragedy (nine weeks)
  
  *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles

  *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

  Student choice of *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, *Long Day’s Journey into Night* by Eugene O’Neill or *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen

  Selected Shakespearean sonnets

  Student choice of *Othello* by William Shakespeare or *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

- Unit on Realism (four weeks)
  
  *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert

  Selected poetry from Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman and Robert Frost

**Spring Reading Schedule**

- Unit on The Ambiguity of Evil (five weeks)
  
  *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James

  *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

  Selected poetry by T.S. Eliot
• Unit on The Edwardian Era (four weeks)

  *Howards End* by E.M. Forster  
  *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw  
  Selected poetry from course texts

• Unit on Existentialism (five weeks)

  *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka  
  *The Stranger* by Albert Camus  
  *No Exit* by Jean Paul Sartre  
  Selected poetry from course texts

• Unit on The Wit of Oscar Wilde (four weeks)

  *The Picture of Dorian Grey* by Oscar Wilde  
  *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde  
  Selected poems by Oscar Wilde [including “The Ballad of Reading Gaol” and “De Profundis”]

• Unit on Dystopia (two weeks)

  *1984* by George Orwell

**Evaluation and Assessment**

Achievement of the objectives is measured by:

1. Regular writing assignments
2. Oral reports given approximately once or twice each semester
3. Class participation
4. Multiple-choice tests styled after the AP Exam with questions about class readings
5. A final examination covering the year’s work
6. The AP Exam