

## *Advanced Placement Literature and Composition* Syllabus

### **Course Description:**

AP English Literature and Composition is for high school seniors who seek the challenges of college level literature study and writing assignments. Upon successful completion of this AP course, students should be prepared to meet the demands of college reading and writing at the post-secondary institutions they will attend.

### **Students can expect to engage in the following activities:**

- Read challenging texts that represent both classical and modern literature in the genres of fiction, drama, and poetry.
- Generate in-class timed writings in response to selected open response topics from past AP exams.
- Plan, write, and revise in-depth literary analysis papers outside the classroom.
- Participate actively in a variety of literature discussion formats including paired sharing, informal oral presentations, small group discussions of particular topics, and large group "Socratic" seminar-style discussions.
- Become familiar with the content, format, and demands of the AP English Lit./Comp. exam by participating in frequent and various practice activities modeled upon it.

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

- comprehend, interpret, and respond appropriately to a wide variety of mature literature.
- analyze literary selections according to the "tools" relevant to the genre being explored (see particulars in Unit descriptions below).
- recognize and evaluate the literary merits of the works studied.
- acknowledge that works of literary merit may be open to multiple interpretations.
- demonstrate knowledge of conventions, techniques, and devices that contribute to effect and meaning in literary works.
- relate a given literary selection to other works on the basis of genre, broad themes, and the biographical, cultural, or historical milieu in which it was created.
- frame and develop a tenable central idea and thesis into a logical, coherent, detailed, and rhetorically effective essay.
- support ideas in written assignments by effectively introducing and integrating quoted material from the literature; use proper form when citing sources.
- use peer and teacher feedback to refine thinking and to redraft and improve written interpretive essays.
- participate with confidence, clarity, and insight in discussions related to the literature.
- present organized, detailed, and accurate information to classmates individually, in pairs, and in group formats.
- use College Board- and teacher-generated rubrics to evaluate the performance of him/herself and others on a variety of written and oral assignments.
- given a selection of literary criticism or commentary on a particular work, defend or refute the critic's argument.
- think beyond the literature itself and gain new perspectives and insights into personal issues and decisions.

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### Core Texts

Selection and sequencing of texts to be used in AP Lit./Comp. depends on a number of factors including book availability and scheduling considerations. Instructor will select texts from the following list but may make appropriate substitutions.

#### Novels

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*The Stranger* by Albert Camus

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

*Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

#### Plays

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams

*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

*A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen

*Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles

#### Poetry

Units organized with respect to theme and genre - to be determined by the instructor.

Poetry study occurs concurrently with study of novels and plays.

#### Short Stories, time permitting

Particular titles to be determined

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION  
Policies and Procedures

**ATTENDANCE**

Each student is expected to

- attend class regularly
- be seated and ready to work when the bell rings
- follow MCPS policies regarding attendance, tardiness, loss of credit, and the appeals process

*PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE GRADE YOU EARN IS NOW DIRECTLY TIED TO YOUR ATTENDANCE. As an example, when you have accumulated five unexcused absences in a class, your grade in that class automatically becomes an "E" until you have successfully appealed your loss of credit. Ask a teacher or an administrator if you do not understand the system-wide MCPS attendance /loss of credit policies.*

**ASSIGNMENTS and MAKE-UP WORK**

Every class has rules and guidelines designed to encourage good work habits and academic success. The policies in place for this class include the following:

- Homework is due when called for and will not be accepted late. In other words, the due date is the deadline. The only exception to this rule is in the case of an excused absence.
- Most other assignments will have due dates and deadlines in accordance with MCPS policy. To obtain 100% of the credit earned on an assignment, make sure you turn it in by the due date. In most cases, the deadline for turning in an assignment will be the class period following the due date. Expect a 10% penalty in your grade.
- Tests, quizzes, and certain classwork assignments must be performed when given. For these activities, the due date is the deadline – except in the case of an excused absence.
- Following an absence, the student is to obtain, complete, and submit missed work promptly. Plan to be finished making up all work within 1-3 days following your return to school. See the teacher to learn the due dates and deadlines for your make-up work.
- In cases of unexcused absence, the make-up work you do may earn zero credit. **THE TEACHER IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR WORK MISSED AS A RESULT OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.**
- If you are a student with extended time accommodations, communicate with the teacher about your needs. In these situations, reasonable extended time is offered for all assignments except for "homework for completion" tasks which must be turned in on time.

**PARTICIPATION AND BEHAVIOR**

Each student is expected to

- participate actively in all class activities
- listen attentively to the teacher during instruction and to other students during discussion
- behave and speak in a manner consistent with the guidelines of MCPS and Wheaton High School
- remain seated unless told to do otherwise
- remain silent for tests and quizzes

*(over)*

- take responsibility for learning; ask for clarification when needed
- use opportunities offered to enhance learning and improve grades, including “REAL” and lunchtime supports
- refrain from cheating and plagiarism as grades for such activities will revert to “0.”

## **MATERIALS**

Each student is expected to bring to class each day

- a binder or 3-ring notebook containing lined paper
- agenda book for hall passes and for recording of assignments
- a pencil and a black or blue pen
- textbook(s) and other handouts for reference
- the assignment due for that day

## **GRADING POLICY**

Grades are updated frequently on Edline. Get in the habit of monitoring your grade often. Your grade is calculated based on the following category weights:

Formative (class assignments, graded homework, quizzes) – 40%

Summative (tests, projects, papers, essays) – 50%

Homework for completion – 10%

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_