

AP Literature and Composition

Contact Information for Andrea Walter

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Course Blog: <http://walterhhs.weebly.com/ap-lit>

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Best Time to Call: 1st block 8:20-9:52

Tutorials: Mondays 3:30-4:30 (alternate times can be arranged by appointment)

Course Description

The course will follow the curricular requirements described in the AP English Literature and Composition Course Description found online at <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-english-literature-and-composition-course-description.pdf>.

[C1] Through the intense study of various literary works from the sixteenth century to the present from various British and American authors writing in various genres, you will gain a better understanding of the way authors use structure, style, and themes to speak to audiences across time.

[C2] We will examine these works not only for the social and historical values they reflect but also for the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone that makes these works beautiful, lasting examples of English literature. As we study each work and revisit works studied in your previous English courses, we will hone your writing skills so that you can coherently express your ideas. Writing assignments will be a combination of informal, exploratory pieces that help you crystallize your understanding of a work, expository essays that incorporate and analyze details from the text to develop a reasonable interpretation of the literary work, and argumentative essays that use details from the text to reinforce a judgment about the literary work's artistry, quality, and social/cultural values.

[C3, C4] Be prepared to write, revise, revise, revise, and revise again as you incorporate enriched vocabulary, effective organizational patterns, rhetorical strategies, varied sentence structures, and balanced details. Students with a wide range of reading and writing skills will join you in this endeavor. We will engage in meaningful, respectful discussions as we learn more effective techniques of literary analysis, and we will examine our own writing and that of our peers as we learn more effective techniques of communication.

[C5] The ultimate goals are for you to earn a passing score on the AP English Literature and Composition Exam and take lasting skills for communicating with peers and adults, analyzing texts of various genres, and responsibly participating in a learning community with you to help you succeed in college. Most importantly, this class will lay the foundation for success in future classes, the workforce, and beyond.

Absences & Tardies

Up to 3 tardies to class warrant a student conference about the benefits of prompt arrival. The 4th tardy results in parent notification and student discipline of Saturday school. The 5th tardy results in two days of Saturday school, and further tardies result in ISS up to OSS.

Absent students are responsible for obtaining and making up missed assignments. Missed assessments will be completed upon the return to class. Students are allowed the same number of days they were absent to complete missing work. (For example, if a student misses class for two days, he/she has two days after returning to turn in the missed work.) Long term assignments are due on the due date regardless of the student's presence in class.

Grading Policy

Grades will be distributed with the following weights:

- Final Exam 10%*
- Formative Assessments/Critical Thinking 25%*
- Summative Assessments/Major Works 40%*
- MC/FRQ Test Prep 10%*
- Vocabulary & Language 15%*

Texts We Read

*A Streetcar Named Desire**
*The Awakening**
Death of a Salesman
Othello
*Heart of Darkness**
*Song of Solomon**

A student selected novel for the research project (TBD in class)

Selections from
Pearson's Literature: an Introduction to Reading and Writing

The Bedford Introduction to Literature: Reading, Thinking, Writing

Teacher-selected passages from published AP and College Board materials

**Students are very strongly encouraged to procure their own copies of these texts, as they will be expected to annotate and highlight passages during our analysis process.*



Please scan this code or visit <https://goo.gl/forms/YhQf1AA7LfleP6AK2> to digitally sign this syllabus. Thanks in advance for your support!

What Sets AP Students Apart?

They generally have...

1. the ability to read accurately with insight, sophistication, and a critical and analytical focus.
2. the ability to engage in intelligent discussion through active listening and constructive discourse.
3. the desire to learn beyond the obvious or superficial; they will be self-motivated and hard working.
4. the desire to attain the highest personal level of scholarly achievement.
5. a sense of personal and social responsibility; they are not "hitchhikers or hunters" or people who discourage/demoralize/derail class progress.
6. the willingness to accept constructive criticism.
7. the patience to accept a variety of answers or unresolved questions as points of departure for further exploration.
8. a robust command of the English language and writing skills or a willingness to catch up if there is a deficiency.
9. solid organizational strategies at school and in their writing.
10. a love of reading.

Classroom Expectations

1. *No hunting or hitchhiking*
2. *Be an advocate for your learning*
3. *Make good choices*

Required Resources

1. *a composition notebook*
2. *highlighters of various colors*
3. *glue sticks or tape*
4. *a pocket folder with fasteners or a small binder*
5. *Big Brother assumes you will know to provide pencils and paper* for your own use.*

Requested Resources

1. *Access to Google Drive or Office 365 (Cobb County has provided an account for each student)*
2. *Post-it Notes*
3. *A personal pair of scissors*

Classroom wish list items

1. *tissues*
2. *colored printer paper*
3. *Clorox wipes*
4. *Post-it Notes*
5. *fun pens*
6. *for you to have a great time in ELA this year*



About Cheating and Plagiarism:

Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. Students cheating on assignments or tests will earn a zero and disciplinary action will be taken.

Plagiarism is the copying of a source both directly or by paraphrase and failing to give credit for another's words or ideas. Academic dishonesty consists of but is not limited to copying homework, cheating, plagiarism, and using films and Cliffs Notes (or a similar device) in place of reading the original works; we will use Turnitin.com as a safety net. I am certain all my students will rise to the challenge of providing insightful, intelligent, and original products for this course. To avoid plagiarism, seek help from your teacher or the writing center.

Advice on How to Handle Late Work or "Assignment Emergencies"

Step One: Avoid it at all costs.

Step Two: Freak out for a reasonable amount of time, but then talk to me as soon as possible and tell me honestly what's going on.

Step Three: Do the work.

Step Four: Turn in the work.

Step Five: Accept that late work will incur automatic loss of points. Mourn this loss. Formative work and homework will not be accepted late. Summative and major work will be accepted (10% if turned in by 11:59 p.m. on the original due date; 30% if turned in any time during the two days following the due date, weekends included).

Step Six: Move on.

Step Seven: See step one.

**Working ahead of the deadline and saving to your Google Drive will eliminate almost all "emergencies." For required Turnitin.com submissions, papers that are not submitted online will earn a zero.*