**Course Description**

The Advanced Placement Literature and Composition course is an introductory college-level course designed to deepen student understanding of rhetorical theory. It follows the curricular requirements described by the *AP English Course Description*. By participating in the course, students will internalize that literature reflects the human condition by exposing universal truths via critical analysis.

This course involves rigorous reading and writing. Students will be required to read all assignments in entirety prior to class. They will also be required to write on a consistent basis. Writings will primarily focus on literary evaluation; however, in order to evaluate, one must demonstrate understanding by using copious evidence.

As a culmination of the course, students will take the AP English Literature and Composition Exam given in May. A grade of 4 or 5 on this exam is equivalent to a 3.3-4.0 for comparable courses at the college level. Most colleges and universities will grant credit to a student who earns a 3.0 or above on the exam.

**Requirements for Parents and Students**

**Reading Expectations**

The most important element of this course is that students carefully read each assignment in a timely manner. Students must plan their schedules in order to complete readings.

**Writing Expectations**

As this is a literature and composition course, students must always practice their best composition skills. Compositions will include formal critical essays, paragraphs, timed writing, statements, journals, and creative works. In conjunction with writing, we will study grammar and style as needed.

Formal Essays must adhere to following guidelines:

* All essays must be typed.  Please keep the text of your paper in a "Times New Roman" or “Ariel” font, size 12.
* All text in your essay must be double-spaced, with block quotations single-spaced.  Do **not add additional spaces between paragraphs.**
* All paragraphs are indented five (5) spaces, or "tabbed."  Block quotations are generally set at five spaces as well.
* Maintain one-inch margins throughout the entire essay, top-to-bottom and left-to-right.
* Please number all pages of your essay except the first in the upper right corner of the page.  You must include your last name, followed by the page number, on each page.  For example: Seskowitz 3
* Always include a Works Cited page, with all texts and literary criticism properly documented according to standard [MLA format](http://webster.commnet.edu/mla.htm).
* Include your rough draft(s) and revision sheets with your final essay.  Your rough draft should display evidence of prewriting, proofreading, and revising. Staple the rough draft to the back of your final draft. ***Any essays submitted without a sufficient rough draft and revision sheet will automatically be dropped to a "50" prior to instructor evaluation, and your essay will NOT be eligible for a revision grade*.**
* Please proofread and spell-check your final essay before submitting it!
* **Late essays will not be accepted.**

**Types of Assessments**

**Formative Assessments**

A large part of your assessments will be formative. Just as you will be expected to read and comprehend text, you will also be required to discuss and defend your observations and opinions. Your discussions will be both oral and written.

**Summative Assessments**

Summative assessments will evaluate your knowledge of concepts and themes. These assessments will be frequently used in order to judge your progress.

In May, you may take the AP Exam in English Literature and Composition. If you score a 3 or above, some colleges and universities will award you course credit. Please check with the school in which you are applying.

**Grading Policy**

Grading follows the Atlanta Public Schools and the AP Grading Policy.

110-90 A

89-80 B

69-0 F

All Essays will be graded according to the AP Scale. The grade conversions are roughly equal to the following:

9 100-95

8 94-90

7 89-85

6 84-80

5 79-70

4 69-50

3 49-30

2 29-20

1 19-5

0 4-0

**Texts Used**

**Students are required to obtain all texts except for the listed anthology. Students who mar or lose the anthologies will be required to replace them.**

Kirszner, Laurie G. and Stephen R. Mandell. *Literature: Reading, Reacting,*

*Writing.* 7th ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010.

Possible Novel Titles: (All novels will be announced weeks in advance)

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness.*

Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment.*

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby.*

Flaubert, Gustave. *Madame Bovary*.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner.*

McEwan, Ian. *Atonement.*

Orwell, George. *1984.*

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse Five.*

Wright, Richard. *Native Son.*

**Class Schedule**

Weeks One and Two: An Introduction to the Course and Expectations

 Benchmarks in Multiple Choice and Free Response

 How to Write for AP: Chunking and Organization

 Leveled Questions

 Contributing to Productive Academic Discussions

 Literary Criticism Overview

 MLA

 \* Pre-Course Reading Essay and Exam.

 \*In-Class Timed Writing: AP-level writing

 \*In-Class Writing

 \*Style Assignment

Weeks Three through Six: Poetry

Sound (tone, rhyme, repetition, allteration, meter, diction, syntax)

Imagery

Language (metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, allusion, etc)

Symbolism

Structure (sonnet, epigram, ode, villanelle, sestina, elegy, ballad, lyric, free verse, blank verse)

Voice

Theme

Works will include writings from the following authors: Ai, Auden, Blake, Brooks, cummings, Dickinson, Donne, Elliot, Frost, H.D., Herbert, Herrick, Hughes, Kinnell, Moore, Lee, McKay, Nash, Olds, Owen, Plath, Pound, Shakespeare, Soto, Wilbur, Williams, and Yeats

 \*In-Class Timed Writing: Critical Analysis and Explication

 \*Poetry Project PowerPoint and Oration

 \*TP-CASTTs and Other Graphic Organizers

 \*Creative Writing

 \*In-Class AP Multiple Choice Practice//Reading Quizzes

 \*Poetry Journals

Weeks Seven through Eight: History and Elements of Drama

 Short works will be selected from the anthology in order to

 explore elements such as history, structure, monologue,

 choreopoem, etc. Authors will include Oates, Rivera, Martin, and

 Wasserstein.

 \*Performing Literature

 \*Writing and Staging Drama Project

 \*AP Multiple Choice and Essay Practice

 \*In-Class Examination

Weeks Nine through Fourteen: Shakespearean Drama

 Exploration of Elizabethan English, Tragedy, Psychology, etc

 *MacBeth*

 *Hamlet*

 \*In-Class Timed Writing

 \*Socratic Seminars

 \*Character Exploration Project

 \*Formal Expository Essay

 \*Major Works Group Summation

Weeks Fifteen through Eighteen: Modern Drama

 Exploration of the modern drama. Conflict, Staging

 Cultural Context, and Character will be explored.

 Glaspell, Susan. *Trifles.*

Wilson, August. *Fences.*

\*Formal Argumentative Essay

 \*In-Class Timed Writing

 \*In-Class Examination

 \*Major Works Group Summation

Second Semester

Weeks One through Four: Short Fiction

 Elements of literature applied to short fiction. Selections

 will be taken from the anthology. Authors such as Hawthorne,

 Oates, O’Connor, Faulkner, Wallace, Hemingway, Poe, and

 Fondation will be studied.

 \*Formal Short Essays

\*CLOSE Reading Analysis

\*Socratic Seminar

\*In-Class AP Multiple Choice Practice and Essay

\*Research Project

Weeks Five through Fifteen: The Novel

 Longer fiction will be explored via elements of fiction,

 literary criticism, and cultural relevance. Please refer to the

 aforementioned list.

 \*Major Works Group Projects

 \*Socratic Seminar

 \*In-Class Timed Writing and Multiple Choice Practice

 \*Research Project

 \*Lit-Crit Application Project

Weeks Sixteen through Eighteen: Independent Novel Project

Students will complete an independent novel project as outlined on the website. Students choose from an AP-level list of novels.

\*Student Teach Novel Project

**Plagiarism**

Cheating of any kind or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Your thoughts and words must always be your own. You must always cite opinions gathered from sources and support these opinions with your own conclusions. Any proved plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a 3 for all parties.

**Required Pre-Course Reading List**

 You are required to complete three outside readings prior to entering the class. Readings will be assessed by one in-class essay and one exam. The following books are your readings:

 Bronte, Charlotte. *Wuthering Heights.*

 Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man.*

**Materials Required**

* One Three-Ring Binder
* 8 Subject Dividers Labeled in the Following Order:
	+ Poetry
	+ Drama
	+ Short Stories
	+ Novels
	+ Writing
	+ Grammar
	+ Vocabulary
	+ Handouts
* College Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper (Approximately 500 Sheets) evenly placed behind the dividers
* Blue/Black Pens
* #2 Pencils
* Four Different Colors of Highlighters
	+ Blue or Green
	+ Yellow
	+ Pink or Orange
* A Disk Key, Jump Drive, Thumb Drive, or Portable Computer Storage
* Index Cards (Approximately 800)
* Access to a Computer, Printer and the Internet (the media center is available before, after, and during school hours)
* All Outside Texts
* All Project Materials Announced

**Tutorials**

 Students are encouraged to stay on Wednesdays for tutorial from 3:20-4:30. Other times may be arranged on a case-by-case basis.