

AP English – AP Literature  
Course Syllabus  
2009-2010

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### **Course Description**

Course Description: (from the College Board) The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students can deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students should 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. The course should include intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. The works chosen should invite and gratify rereading. Such close reading involves the experience of literature, the interpretation of literature, and the evaluation of literature.

### **Course Objectives**

- Examine literary texts from a variety of analytical perspectives, including socio-historical, biographical, and comparative.
- Demonstrate understanding of literary texts through personal and creative interpretation as well as analytical criticism
- Actively participate in class discussions and group projects relating to the material and offer constructive feedback to fellow class members
- Prepare for the AP Literature exam through reading, in-class timed writing and multiple-choice exercises

### **Readings**

#### **First Advisory**

Hamlet, William Shakespeare

Selected poems of William Shakespeare, Francis Bacon, John Donne, Wordsworth Coleridge, Byron, Shelley and Keats.

#### **Second Advisory**

*Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte

Selected poems of Tennyson, Robert Browning and Elizabeth Browning.

#### **Third Advisory**

*Mrs. Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf

Selections of T.S. Eliot, Wilfred Owen, Eli Weisel, and Yeats

*Wide Sargasso Sea*, Jean Rhys  
*Beowulf*, translated by Seamus Heaney  
*Grendel*, John Gardner  
*Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison  
*Beloved*, Toni Morrison

**Testing Days for AP Exams: May 3-7 and May 10-14, 2010**

### Writing

Writing assignments include free writing, essays, timed writing, short creative pieces, and constructed response. The guidelines and rubrics for each major assignment will be distributed in class and discussed. There will be at least one major writing assignment per advisory. Some assignments will need to be typed, but most will be hand-written as hand-written responses are a major component of the AP exam.

**Electronic copies of assignments will NOT be accepted.**

### Materials

**Students are being asked to purchase their own copies of each of the major texts that we will be reading this year. Short pieces, such as poems, will be provided in-class.**

Order by:	Title	Author	ISBN	Cost*
3-Sep	Barron's How to Prepare for the AP English Literature and Composition 2008	College Board	0764136828	11.55
3-Sep	Folger Library Hamlet	Shakespeare	074-347712X	9.95
1-Sep	Folger Library Sonnets and Narrative Poems	Shakespeare	0613024958	5.95
1-Oct	Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	076-4136828	12
1-Nov	Mrs. Dalloway	Virginia Woolf	978-0743477123	5.99
	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea (may be borrowed from school)</i>	Jean Rhys	978-0451530899	7.95
1-Dec	Beowulf	Trans. Seamus Heaney	0812-523377	4.99
	<i>Grendel (may be borrowed from school)</i>	John Gardner	978-0156628709	13
1-Jan	The Vintage Book of African American Poetry	Eds. Michael Harper & Anthony Walton	0375-703004	15.95
1-Feb	Invisible Man	Ralph Ellison	978-0393320978	13.95
1-Mar	Beloved	Toni Morrison	067-9723110	
			067-9732764	10.17
			978-1400033416	14.95
<b>Total</b>				<b>126.40</b>

\*Cost based on Barnes and Nobles Price; cost may be reduced by buying used on Amazon

**Additional materials include:**

- **A three-ring binder (English handouts and notes may be kept in a separate section or a separate binder from other class work)**
- **Loose-leaf paper (may come from a spiral notebook)**
- **Pens or pencils**
- **Ziploc bags (to hold books and keep them clean)**

**Policies and Procedures**

- 1. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Per school policy, three unexcused “tardies” equal one unexcused absence and five unexcused absences result in a failing grade for the advisory.**
- 2. Plagiarism of any assignment will result in an automatic “F” for that assignment. No exceptions.**
- 3. Assignments handed in late will be assessed a 5% penalty per day that the assignment is late with a maximum deduction of 50%. Late assignments will be accepted ONLY at the discretion of the instructor. Not all assignments will be accepted late.**

**Grading**

DCPS grading scale

A=93-100

A-=90-92

B+=87-89

B=83-86

B-=80-82

C+=77-79

C=73-76

C-=70-72

D+=67-69

D=64-66

F=63 and below

## Assignments

- **All papers must be typed, in MLA format, double spaced, in Times New Roman 12-pt font.**
- **Ordinary homework assignments may be hand-written, but should be highly legible, neat and clean.**
- **Depending on the purpose of the assignment, writing quality will be assessed in one of three ways.**
  - **Quick-assignment: for nightly homework assignments, students will be graded on the quality of their ideas, and not their technical writing style.**
  - **Medium assignments: for assignments designed to focus on student's writing and communication abilities, students will be graded on their writing ability, with possible point deduction for egregious spelling or grammatical errors.**
  - **Long-Term assignments: reserved for projects, papers and essays that have been through more than one draft. Students will be assessed according to the quality of their ideas, and all aspects of writing ability both technical and stylistic.**

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism defeats the purpose of education, especially in a course designed to help students succeed on a standardized test. In AP Literature, students will work to improve their writing, and analytical and creative thinking skills to prepare them for next year when (it is assumed) they will be enrolled in college.

Plagiarism includes but it is not limited to:

- Exchanging answers or assignments with others. This includes exchanging answers by electronic or recorded means and then submitting them as “original” work.
- Using unauthorized reference sheets during a test.
- Using programmed material in electronic devices when prohibited (as in on tests).
- Submitting someone else's assignment as your own, in whole or in part.
- Submitting material (written or designed by someone else) without giving credit to the source.
- Taking credit for group work without making any meaningful contribution to the product.
- Stealing test materials.
- Sabotaging or destroying the work of others.
- Submitting the same work in more than one course without the knowledge and approval of the teachers involved.
- Not following the guidelines specified by the teacher during a test (i.e. talking), or for a “take-home” test or exam.

## **Classroom Rules**

1. **Follow all directions**, both written and verbal.
2. **Respect the room.** Do not leave trash on the floor, or place food-related trash in the waste paper basket. Deposit all food-related trash (wrappers, fruit peels, bottles, etc.) in the large garbage can in the hallway.) And no gum.
3. **Complete all assignments.** No “make-up” work assignments will be accepted in lieu of completing work already assigned.
4. **Obey classroom and school policies per DESA community handbook.**
5. **BE ON TIME FOR CLASS.** Pop quizzes can and may be given at the start of the period.
6. **Come prepared to work with required materials.** That means being in your seat, ready to work when the bell rings. Coming into the classroom, dropping off your book bag and immediately leaving does not count as being on time. Do not come to class and immediately ask if you may go to your locker and retrieve something that you need for class. Go to your locker first, and then come to class.
7. No personal grooming in the classroom of any kind.
8. Electronic devices must be turned off and put away **BEFORE** students enter the room.

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

To ensure the success of our students, please read the information on this syllabus carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at any time. Please fill out the contact information and sign below, so that we may be in contact as is necessary and beneficial to our students' success.

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Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

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Parent Name (please print)

Parent Signature

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Parent E-mail Address

Here's to a great score on the exam!

Sincerely,

Mrs. M.G. Wray-Samans