

AP Literature & Composition

“Literature as Art”

Duke Ellington School of the Arts 2018-2019

Teacher Contact Info

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Welcome to AP Literature and Composition!

Unlike AP Language and Composition, which focuses on nonfiction literature, this course is designed to foster careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the careful reading of selected texts, students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for readers. They will consider a work's theme, structure, and style, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. Through careful observations of textual detail, students will establish connections and draw inferences leading to an interpretive conclusion about a work's meaning and value. The course concentrates upon representative works from various genres and periods of recognized literary merit.

Many pieces will require thoughtful and analytic rereading that should be followed by thoughtful discussion and in-class writing. Writing and revision is an integral part of AP Literature and Composition. Students will write clear, cohesive, and logical interpretations of literature. The writing skills developed and refined in this class will meet the rigorous demands of the AP exam and college courses. (Adapted from the College Board course description)

Course Overview

1. Writing

a. Writing is an integral part of AP Literature and Composition. Writing assignments will focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Writing assignments will increase the ability to explain clearly, cogently, and even elegantly the student's interpretation of literary works.

b. Timed writings are an essential element to this course. Pay attention to when these appear on the calendar. There will be no-makeups for unexcused absences.

2. Continual Assignments

a. Poetry i. Bi-weekly individual poetry analysis/reflections

b. Literary Movement interactive presentation

i. Students will be selected in small groups to teach a literary movement to the class. This is a 30-45 minute presentation.

3. Reading:

a. You will have daily reading assignments. You are responsible for purchasing the following works (except where noted):

Unit 1: **Evolution of Language** Beowulf translated by Burton Raffel; Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer (teacher provided)

Unit 2: **The Search for Identity** A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen; The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison; Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Unit 3: **The Influence of Setting and the Environment** The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne; Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison; A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

Unit 4: **Shakespeare** Othello (Folger), Macbeth (Folger), Selected Sonnets

Objectives

1. Read and identify literary elements in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, short story, and drama.
2. Read and analyze literature as it reflects traditional themes, motifs, genres, and history.
3. Read and identify archetypal characters and themes in literature from various cultures.
4. Identify elements of style and demonstrate how it contributes to the overall meaning of a literary work.
5. Write with conscious development of style with an emphasis on exposition and analysis.
6. Observe, analyze, plan, and create written and oral presentations.
7. Use oral language with an emphasis on small group process and individual/group presentations.
8. Relate cultural, social, or historical influences in order to understand and appreciate literature.
9. Develop critical thinking skills by comparing and contrasting works of various authors and making connections across the curriculum.

Required Materials

1. Pencils
2. Post-its
3. Highlighters (at least two different colors)
4. Gmail Account (We will exclusively use Google Apps. You MUST create a gmail account)
5. Composition Book/Spiral Notebook specifically for English
6. An electronic device (smartphone, tablet, or laptop).

7. Folder/Binder section

Classroom Expectations

1. Be in class on time every day. Attendance is essential. There is no way that you can make-up the presentations of material, class discussions, and analysis of literature that will occur on a daily basis.
2. Be prepared. This course will follow a rigorous pace. Stay on top of assignments; complete each one to the best of your ability. They are due at the beginning of class.
3. Be committed and behave as a literary scholar. A college level course demands a high level of intellectual engagement in the curriculum. You need to be attentive and focused.
4. Be respectful. This means respecting the interpretations and opinions of everyone in the classroom. Each member of the class will have a voice and deserves the opportunity to be heard.
5. Be an advocate. You need to realize when the struggle bus has left you and talk to me when things become unmanageable for you. You need to learn how to advocate for YOURSELF. I am available in the morning and via email.
6. Be clean. No Food or Drink (except water) and keep the workspace neat.

Technology Expectations:

1. Cell Phones: Class time is not time for personal phone use.
2. Google Drive: You MUST have an appropriate GMAIL e-mail address. You will create an English IV folder on Google Drive for your assignments.
3. Common App: EVERYONE will create a Common App account utilizing your professional gmail account.

Attendance Daily attendance in all classes is imperative for academic success throughout each school year. Being prepared for class includes completing any necessary assignments, being in class before the bell rings and participating actively in learning each day. Each day of an excused absence affords one school day of make-up work opportunity. Each unexcused tardy and unexcused absence means missed instruction, loss of work time, and ultimately leads to lower grades.

Grade Procedures

1. Each quarter will be graded on the following weight system:
 - a. Participation: 10% (warmups, discussion, annotations)
 - b. Practice & Application: 50% (Classwork, homework, and quizzes)
 - c. Assessments: 40% (Essays, major projects and tests)
2. There will be at least 2 graded assignments per week
3. Late Work: a. Must be turned in no later than two weeks after the deadline. b. There will be no extensions on summative assessments. Pay attention to your monthly class calendar and plan accordingly.

4. Course Exam: At the end of this course, all students are required take the AP Literature and Composition exam prepared by the AP English Literature Development Committee from College Board. This exam consists of the following:

a. 55 passage-based multiple-choice questions (60 minutes)

b. 3 essays (2 hours) i. Poetry ii. Prose iii. Choice Text

5. DCPS Grading Scale:

A 93% to 100% A- 90% to 92%

B+ 87%to 89%

B 83% to 86%

B- 80% to 82%

C+ 77%to 79%

C 73% to 76%

C- 70% to 72%

D+ 67% to 69%

D 64% to 66%

F 63% & below 4