

AP Literature and Composition

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition!

Course Description

AP Literature is a rigorous course designed to prepare you to take the College Board's Advanced Placement English exam in Literature and Composition and to prepare you for your various college courses. The test, given in the spring, allows high school seniors to earn college credit. It is composed of multiple choice and essay questions that are designed to assess your ability to read, understand, and interpret all genres of literature. The texts, authors, literary terms and critical material we will study this year are all geared towards helping you succeed on the AP Literature exam. We will also spend a great deal of time working on and practicing for the different *sections* of the exam. This will happen weekly. Given that this course is designed for preparation for the AP exam, **your participation in this exam is expected**. In fact, the only way to be exempt from the final exam in this course is to take the AP exam.

This link will lead you to the AP Literature and Composition course overview:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-literature-and-composition/course>

This link will lead you to the Course and Exam Explanation Module:

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/ap/modules/overview/english-lit/index.html>

The Exam

The AP Literature exam assesses your understanding of the skills and essential knowledge as outlined in the course framework. The exam is three hours long and includes a section with 55 multiple choice questions and 3 free-response questions.

I.	Multiple-choice Questions	45%	60 minutes
II.	Free-response Questions	55%	2 hours (40 minutes each)
	Question 1: Poetry Analysis		
	Question 2: Prose Fiction Analysis		
	Question 3: Literary Argument		

The “Big Ideas” of AP Literature and Composition:

The “Big Ideas” serve as the foundation for the AP Literature and Composition course and allow students to make meaningful connections among course concepts.

1. CHARACTER
2. SETTING
3. STRUCTURE
4. NARRATION
5. FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
6. LITERARY ARGUMENTATION

The Assignments

In AP English, you will *always be reading something*, and you will *always have some assignment on the horizon*. You must be prepared to read all texts closely and analytically, and to fulfill assignments that are of different lengths and levels of difficulty.

Senior Project Paper	Argumentative or informational research essay
Timed Responses	Timed responses to AP exam essay questions
Multiple Choice Quizzes	Timed sections for AP exam practice
Oral Presentations	Demonstrate mastery of a central theme and the related texts and issues
Reading Assessments	Announced and unannounced; will be given after specific reading assignments
Independent Reading	<p>During every unit, you will be asked to choose from a list of novels (see list at the bottom of this syllabus). You may NOT choose a book that you have read in a previous course or on your own. Remember, the idea is that you read as much as you can in preparation for the AP exam.</p> <p>For each independent reading text, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Be prepared to discuss your findingsB. Take an Open-Ended Question (Question Three) exam in class. The question will relate to the essential question in each unit.

The Grades

Although the weighting for assignments may shift, the general distribution is as follows:

Common Assessments & On-Demand Writing	60%
Classwork, Homework, & Quizzes	20%
Class Participation/Seminars	20%

Future grading percentages will change with the inclusion of Senior Project assignments.

The Units

We will be working in conjunction with the College Board “AP Classroom” website, which organizes the AP Literature and Composition curriculum in a series of nine (9) distinct units. These units will be taught in conjunction with other longer or supplemental readings at the teacher’s discretion.

Unit 1: Short Fiction I

Unit 2: Poetry I

Unit 3: Larger Fiction or Drama I

Unit 4: Short Fiction II

Unit 5: Poetry II

Unit 6: Larger Fiction or Drama II

Unit 7: Short Fiction III

Unit 8: Poetry III

Unit 9: Larger Fiction or Drama III

The literature will be framed under the thematic concepts below:

Semester I: Meaning and Reality

Semester II: Truth and Justice

The Literature

Each quarter, the literary selections will focus on the six “Big Ideas” of AP Literature while analyzing literature in three main genres: fiction, poetry, and drama. We will explore these concepts as they reveal themselves in the literature. We will also investigate how they appear in other aspects of our society.

As part of capturing literature from a broad range of historical, political, religious, and cultural perspectives, students can expect to read material that contains sensitive topics and subject matter that will be part of classroom assignments and discussions. Students are expected to handle these topics appropriately and maturely. As noted in the AP Literature and Composition Course and Exam Description (2019):

“Issues that might, from a specific cultural viewpoint, be considered controversial, including depictions of nationalities, religions, ethnicities, dialects, gender, or class, are often represented artistically in literature. AP students are not expected or asked to subscribe to any one specific set of cultural or political values, but are expected to have the maturity to analyze perspectives different from their own and to question the meaning, purpose, or effect of such content within the literary work as a whole.”

Many, if not most, of our readings are in the public domain, which means they are available in the form of etexts, ebooks, PDFs, etc... Regarding independent reading options, most often we are able to supply these books, but you may need to obtain your own copy either through the school and public libraries, the bookstore, or online. The core readings will be supplemented by shorter related readings. The syllabus serves as a guide from which texts will be chosen for class study.

Major Texts:

Summer Reading: *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

Independent Reading Options for Quarter 1:

Yann Martel	<i>Life of Pi</i>
Mary Shelley	Frankenstein
Alice Walker	The Color Purple

Independent Reading Options for Quarter 2:

Lewis Carroll	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Ken Kesey	<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>
Oscar Wilde	The Picture of Dorian Gray

Independent Reading Options for Quarter 3:

Truman Capote	<i>In Cold Blood</i>
Joyce Carol Oates	<i>Expensive People</i>
George Orwell	1984

Independent Reading Options for Quarter 4:

Dante Alighieri	The Inferno
Harper Lee	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>
Gabrielle Garcia Marquez	Chronicle of a Death Foretold

Teachers may choose from the following text menu throughout the academic year, as well as include any additional literature that they see relevant.

Novels

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	<i>Americanah</i>
Mitch Albom	<i>Tuesdays With Morrie</i>
Margaret Atwood	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>
Brit Bennett	<i>The Vanishing Half</i>
Anthony Doerr	<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i>
Fyodor Dostoevsky	Crime and Punishment
Ralph Ellison	<i>Invisible Man</i>
Ernest Gaines	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>
Herman Hesse	Siddhartha
John Irving	<i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i>
Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>Never Let Me Go</i>
Franz Kafka	Metamorphosis
Jhumpa Lahiri	<i>The Namesake</i>
Gabriel Garcia Marquez	<i>100 Years of Solitude</i>
Min Jin-Lee	<i>Pachinko</i>
Cormac McCarthy	<i>The Road</i>
Toni Morrison	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>
Leo Tolstoy	The Death of Ivan Ilych

Drama

Samuel Beckett	Waiting for Godot
Henrik Ibsen	A Doll's House (or An Enemy of the People)
Arthur Miller	Death of a Salesman
William Shakespeare	Hamlet

William Shakespeare	<i>King Lear</i>
William Shakespeare	<i>The Tragedy of Macbeth</i>
Sophocles	Oedipus the King
Tennessee Williams	The Glass Menagerie
August Wilson	Fences

Short Fiction

Sherman Alexie	“The Only Traffic Signal on the Reservation...”
Dante Alighieri	from “The Inferno”
Alison Baker	“Better Be Ready ‘Bout Half Past Eight”
James Baldwin	“A Rose for Emily”
James Baldwin	“Sonny’s Blues”
Toni Cade Bambara	“The Lesson”
Ambrose Bierce	“An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”
Albert Camus	“The Myth of Sisyphus”
Raymond Carver	“Cathedral”
Kate Chopin	“Story of an Hour”
John Collier	“The Chaser”
Julio Cortazar	“The Night Face Up”
Julio Cortazar	“Continuity of Parks”
Edward J. Delaney	“Clean”
Junot Diaz	“This Is How You Lose Her”
Charlotte Perkins Gillman	“The Yellow Wallpaper”
Nathaniel Hawthorne	“Young Goodman Brown”
Nathaniel Hawthorne	“Feathertop”
Ernest Hemingway	“Hills Like White Elephants”
Ernest Hemingway	“Up in Michigan”
Ernest Hemingway	“A Clean Well Lighted Place”
Zora Neale Hurston	“Sweat”
Washington Irving	“Rip Van Winkle”
Kazuo Ishiguro	“A Village after Dark”
James Joyce	“Araby”
James Joyce	“Counterparts”
Jamaica Kincaid	“Girl”
S.I. Kishor	“Appointment with Love”
Jhumpa Lahiri	“Interpreter of Maladies”
Flannery O’Connor	“A Good Man Is Hard to Find”
Joyce Carol Oates	“Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”
Joyce Carol Oates	“Where is Here?”
Tommy Orange	“The State”
Plato	from “The Republic”
Plato	“The Allegory of the Cave”
Plato	from “The Apology”
Zadie Smith	“Now More than Ever”
Eloise Bibb Thompson	“Masks”
John Updike	“A&P”
Weike Wang	“Omakase”
Dorothy West	“Prologue to a Life”

Literary Analysis Texts

W.H. Auden	“On Literature and Arts”
Jonathan Bate	“Millennium Reputations: Which are the Most Overrated Authors, or Books, of the Past 1000 Years?”

Max Bense	"Kafka's Conception of Being"
Michel De Montaigne	from "On Liars"
Thomas C. Foster	How to Read Literature Like a Professor
Jon Gertner	"The Futile Pursuit of Happiness"
Edwin Honig	"The Making of Allegory"
Anna Knowles	"Nietzsche's Superman"
Helmut Kaiser	"Kafka's Fantasy of Punishment"
Anton Karl Kozlovic	"Superman as Christ-Figure: The American Pop Culture Movie Messiah"
Susan Sontag	"Against Interpretation"
Jean Paul Sartre	"Existentialism as Humanism"
Friedrich Nietzsche	"Good and Evil Reconsidered"
Peter Dow Webster	"Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis as Death and Resurrection Fantasy"
John Searle	"The Construction of Social Reality"
Walter Sokel	"Education for Tragedy"

Poetry and Lyrics:

Matthew Arnold	"Dover Beach"
James Baldwin	"Staggerlee wonders"
Tara Betts	"Women's Writers' Workshop"
Anne Bradstreet	"The Author to Her Book"
Rupert Brooke	"Poems 1914" (series)
Emily Bronte	"Hope"
Gwendolyn Brooks	"The Bean Eaters"
Robert Browning	"My Last Duchess"
Samuel Taylor Coleridge	"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"
Billy Collins	"Intro to Poetry"
Countee Cullen	"Incident"
Emily Dickinson	"After Great Pain, a Formal Feeling Comes"
Emily Dickinson	"A Bird, came down the Walk"
Emily Dickinson	"A narrow Fellow in the Grass"
Emily Dickinson	"'Hope' is the thing with feathers -"
John Donne	"Death Be Not Proud"
Hilda Doolittle	"Helen"
T.S. Eliot	"The Hollow Men"
Robert Frost	"Out, Out --"
Nikki Giovanni	"BLK History Month"
Thomas Hardy	"The Man He Killed"
Robert Hayden	"Those Winter Sundays"
Robert Hayden	"The Whipping"
Seamus Heaney	"Digging"
Robert Herrick	"To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time"
A.E. Housman	"Bredon Hill"
A.E. Housman	"To An Athlete Dying Young"
Langston Hughes	"Let America Be America Again"
John Keats	"Ode to a Nightingale"
John Lennon and Paul McCartney	"Eleanor Rigby"
Claude McKay	"If We Must Die"
Harold Monroe	"Youth in Arms"
Sharon Olds	"Rites of Passage"
Edgar Allan Poe	"A Dream Within a Dream"

<u>Edgar Allan Poe</u>	<u>"To Helen"</u>
<u>Rage Against the Machine</u>	<u>"Sleep Now in the Fire"</u>
<u>Edwin Arlington Robinson</u>	<u>"Miniver Cheevy"</u>
<u>Edwin Arlington Robinson</u>	<u>"Richard Cory"</u>
<u>Theodore Roethke</u>	<u>"My Papa's Waltz"</u>
<u>The Rolling Stones</u>	<u>"Sympathy for the Devil"</u>
<u>William Shakespeare</u>	<u>"Sonnet 116"</u>
<u>William Shakespeare</u>	<u>"Sonnet 130"</u>
<u>Alfred Tennyson</u>	<u>"Ulysses"</u>
<u>Natasha Trethewey</u>	<u>"White Lies"</u>
<u>Gary Turk</u>	<u>"Look Up"</u>
<u>Ocean Vuong</u>	<u>"Self-Portrait as Exit Wounds" (podcast/audio)</u>
<u>Ocean Vuong</u>	<u>"Aubade with Burning City"</u>
<u>Ocean Vuong</u>	<u>"Kissing in Vietnamese"</u>
<u>Ocean Vuong</u>	<u>"Prayer for the Newly Damned"</u>
<u>Alice Walker</u>	<u>"Women"</u>
<u>Walt Whitman</u>	<u>"A Noiseless Patient Spider"</u>
<u>William Carlos Williams</u>	<u>"The Widow's Lament in Springtime"</u>