**AP English Literature**

Course Syllabus

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**Brief Course Description:**

AP English 12 is the English Literature and Composition course. Students will be expected to read and write at a level that reflects the skills and abilities of an introductory college English class (Yes, this basically will be a college course building off of material used and skills learned the last three years). Students will be expected to read, with a critical and analytical eye, fiction and poetry by a variety of authors from the 16th through the 21st century. Students will be expected to write in a variety of modes with emphasis on the techniques of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

**POLICY AND PROCEDURES:**

Since this is an advanced course, I do expect your behavior and actions to reflect this. Be here mentally and physically or drop to regular English so as not to waste everyone’s time. That said, here are some rules to follow:

1. Drinks – Anything with a cap is fine. Spilling is frowned upon and may result in the loss of your soul
2. Food – As long as you clean up after yourselves, I’m okay with eating. You’re not children. Most of you.
3. Be respectful of ideas that may be different from your own. A major portion of this class will be an exploration of ideas through discussion. I expect you all to participate at some point.
4. Do your own work and be accountable for budgeting your time. There will be a lot of outside reading you will be responsible for and Spark Notes won’t cut it. Not if you want to do well on the AP Test, a test which determines not only whether you will receive college credit, but also which afterlife you will be sent to (Advanced Placement – Get it?)
	1. Note: Many colleges will expel students for plagiarism.
	2. Note: You will only get out of this course what you put into it. Your goal is to be college ready, not to just take a test at the end.
5. Finally, crying is acceptable, but not mandatory.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

* *The Language of Literature* (purple textbook)
* *Literature and Composition* (white textbook)

***POSSIBLE* MAJOR READINGS:** *(feel free to buy your own copies to take notes in)*

* *1984* by George Orwell
* *Beowulf* – author unknown
* *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
* *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller
* *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
* *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
* *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
* *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
* *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
* *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
* *No Country For Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy
* *Othello* by William Shakespeare
* *Pygmalion* by Bernard Shaw
* *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut
* *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
* *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
* *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
* *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
* *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

**Ten Most Frequently Cited Books on the AP Literature Test**

(Number beside title refers to the number of times referenced)

(28) Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

(23) Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

(20) Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

(18) Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

(18) Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

(17) Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky

(17) King Lear by William Shakespeare

(15) The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

(15) Moby Dick by Herman Melville

(14) Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

**OTHER READINGS:**

Both textbooks offer a wide selection of supplemental material for the other readings. This includes short stories, poetry, and plays, some of which may be complete, others just passages to analyze and focus on a particular skill or aspect. We may also add other novels throughout the year to supplement the main readings.

**WRITING:**

Throughout the year, we will write numerous timed essays to prepare for the AP test at the end of second semester. These will be graded using the AP rubric to better acquaint you with the system they’ll use. We will also do a variety of shorter responses based on ideas/themes the current reading inspires.

**ABSENCE AND MISSING WORK**

* When you are absent, it is your job to check the website for the work you’ll miss that day and be caught up when you return. Most of the work involves reading so there’s no excuse to fall behind.
* Because this course is meant to mirror a college course, ***I will not accept late work***. If you are absent, you get a day, but if you just forgot to do it, you will take the zero.
	+ **NOTE:** As is common in a college course, there won’t be that many written assignments per quarter. One zero could do significant damage to your grade.

**OTHER FUN FACTS:**

* The AP test costs around $100 so start saving now. Begging neighbors is perfectly acceptable.