

# AP English Literature

## 2009-2010

Mrs. Kemmerer

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2:45-3:30 or by appointment

**Location:** L5

### Course Description

AP English is a college-level course designed to prepare you for writing in college as well as for taking the AP English Literature Exam in early May. It follows the curricular requirements described in the College Board's *AP English Course Description*. The reading selections and writing assignments will be rich and challenging; the pace of the class, intense. We will concentrate on analyzing literature by doing close readings. We will also focus on further developing your writing skills through free-writing, peer editing, grammar review, argument refinement, etc. The analytical skills you learn in this class will serve you well throughout the rest of your academic career and in whatever you may choose to do after that.

### Course Goals

*Students who have successfully completed AP English Literature will:*

- Employ close reading skills to examine stylistic techniques such as diction, detail, syntax, imagery, point of view, and organization in order to analyze how textual style helps create meaning.
- Write coherent, effective essays that analyze the structure, style, and themes of literary texts both timed and untimed.
- Demonstrate in writing and discussion maturity and sophistication in their understanding of literary texts, voice, diction, and tone.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the special vocabulary unique to the analysis of literature, including the various genres of poetry, drama, non-fiction prose, and imaginative prose.
- Formulate an opinion based on an independently chosen work of literature that results in an original, arguable thesis and write an effective essay written in support of the thesis.
- Participate in challenging class discussions, oral presentations, and creative projects that encourage them to confidently articulate their points of view based on a deeper understanding of the text.
- Identify the various schools of literary criticism and apply these approaches in interpreting literary text.
- Use and properly cite appropriate text and Internet sources.
- Compose, edit, and revise a personal statement for college admissions applications.

### Required Materials:

The English Department requires that you bring to class before the end of the first week of school your own unmarked copies of all the texts listed here. You must also ensure that you purchase the specified edition of each text. Please consult the Varsity Books website for each book's ISBN----an identifying number that will help you distinguish between different editions of the same text.

Achebe, Chinua. Things Fall Apart  
Beckett, Samuel. Waiting for Godot  
Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness  
Faulkner, William. The Sound & The Fury.  
Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7<sup>th</sup> edition  
Kafka, Franz. Metaphmorphosis.

Shakespeare, William. King Lear.  
Stoppard, Tom. Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead.  
Trimble, John. Writing With Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing.  
Vogel and Winans Multiple Choice & Free Response Questions in Preparation for the AP English Literature & Composition Examination, D & S Marketing

**It is imperative that you bring your supplies and the text that we are studying every day!  
You will receive a detention when you come without the appropriate materials.**

## **Classroom Expectations:**

- **Participation:** “Eighty percent of success is showing up” ---- Woody Allen  
Daily, active participation in class discussion provides you---as well as the rest of the class---incalculable benefits. Please refer to the English Department rubric for class discussion to understand what is expected of you. Your final grade in this class may be raised ½ a grade for excellence in this area. It may be lowered ½ a grade for deficiency.
- **Web Pages:** The syllabus for this course as well as general information about the English Department may be found on the school’s webpage. Specific information about the daily work of this course may be found on my webpage. I expect you to check this page daily. **Please don’t waste paper by printing out the weekly assignment pages!**
- **Make-Up Work:** All written assignments must be completed on time to pass this class. If you have a legitimate need for an extension, please see me before the due date and we will work something out. Senior year is full of competing commitments. Keep on top of things and train yourself to see conflicts ahead of time. For those unforeseen difficulties, you have a limited number of “goof slips” available to you, some good for homework and others for essays. Keep unnecessary absences to a minimum. Senior year has plenty of “necessary” absences. You are responsible to find out about and make up what you have missed. Please consult the assignment log posted on my webpage.
- **Test Return Policy:** English teachers keep summer reading tests, vocabulary tests, and objective final exams so that assessment questions are field tested and can be revised when necessary. This practice allows the department to reuse most parts of an exam for comparison of achievement from year to year and to adjust the emphasis of instruction when required. Students may access their past tests by making arrangements with their teacher.
- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism is the *intentional or unintentional* use of someone else’s WORDS or IDEAS without giving proper credit. This includes paraphrasing a source without giving due credit. See the Student Writing Handbook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition for an exhaustive discussion of this matter. As you know, plagiarism is a serious breach of academic integrity and any assignment containing plagiarism earns a zero.
- **Honor Code:** At all times, students are expected to adhere to and respect the school’s Honor Code. On all your work, your name affirms your honor.
- **Other classroom rules:** Students should be seated in the classroom when the bell rings. No food or drinks (with the exception of water) are allowed in class. Students are expected to follow all school rules and regulations as outlined in the Immaculate Heart High School Student Handbook, as well as exhibit mature and appropriate behavior.

## **Types of Assignments:**

**Writing:** You will usually write and revise one essay for each major work we study, often in response to one of the AP free response prompts selected for that work. You will also write both timed and un-timed style analysis pieces from selections of prose and poetry. All essays must be word-processed and include a properly formatted works cited/consulted page. Your essays should use appropriate diction, varied sentence

structure, effective voice, appropriate organization, and specific concrete detail. Please refer to the English Department rubric for essays for a more detailed understand of what is expected of you.

You must upload all essays and any other specified assignments to the website: [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). You will need to set up a user profile using a valid email account. You will also need the appropriate class ID number and enrollment password designated for your class period. You must upload all your written work to Turnitin or you will not received credit for your work. Keep the digital receipt you receive to prove you uploaded your work.

| Period | Class ID | Enrollment Password (case sensitive) |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 3      | 2773924  | Shakespeare                          |
| 4      | 2773925  | Faulkner                             |

- **Independent Reading:** In the first semester, you will read one additional book per quarter (first quarter will be Jane Smiley's A Thousand Acres; second quarter you will choose from a limited selection) and complete an assignment and/or timed writing exam for each. Please inform me of your choice early in second quarter. You will join a book club second semester and will read one substantial book with a group of other students.
- **Weekly Timed Writing:** Beginning second semester, you will be assigned a weekly timed essay. You are to do this on your own time, handwritten on AP paper.
- **Creative Projects:** In addition to writing and reading there will be several creative projects associated with the literature we read. You will perform several scenes from a play, do an oral presentation about a school of critical thought, prepare a class lesson for a group of your fellow students, etc.
- **Final Exams:** In addition to the AP Exam style final, students should expect a cumulative objective response final during the last week of the semester. Be sure to take thorough notes throughout the semester to help you prepare.

## Grading Policy:

Grades are computed on a point system with, for example, essays worth 100; timed writings, 25-40; projects, ranging between 20-80; and homework, between 5-10. A running total of points will be kept and not broken down into quarters. The final exam will account for 25 % of the total semester points. As noted above, participation can raise or lower this grade by one half (e.g., B to B+ or B).

## Grading Scale

|           |          |          |          |        |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| 98-100 A+ | 87-89 B+ | 77-79 C+ | 67-69 D+ | 0-59 F |
| 93-97 A   | 83-86 B  | 73-76 C  | 63-66 D  |        |
| 90-92 A-  | 80-82 B- | 70-72 C- | 60-62 D- |        |

## **FIRST SEMESTER:**

### **Unit One: approximately one week**

Summer Reading

Prayer for Owen Meany, John Irving

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Foer

### **Unit Two: approximately six weeks**

Theme: Family Dynamics

King Lear, William Shakespeare

A Thousand Acres, Jane Smiley

Ran, Akira Kurosawa (film)

### **Unit Three: approximately one week**

Writing the College Essay

“Why I Write” by George Orwell

excerpt from “Why I Write” by Joan Didion

Various published and unpublished college essays

Essays from the NPR series “This I Believe”

### **Unit Four: approximately five weeks**

Theme: Existentialism: To Be or Not to Be; To Wait or Not to Wait

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead, Tom Stoppard (play and film)

Waiting for Godot, Samuel Beckett

### **Unit Five: approximately three weeks**

*(concurrent with Unit Four)*

College Writing: Part One

Writing with Style, John Trimble

Style Analysis review: Part Two

AP English Literature Handbook

### **Unit Six: approximately two weeks**

Exploring and Defining Poetry

“Norman Morrison,” Mitchell

“Norman Morrison,” Ferguson

“Of Late,” Starbuck

“Ars Poetica,” MacLeish

“Poetry,” Moore

“Constantly Risking Absurdity and Death,” Ferlinghetti

“The Writer,” Wilbur

“Blackberry Eating,” Kinnell

“Digging,” Heaney

“Bog Queen,” Heaney

“The Chimney Sweeper,” Blake (1789 and 1794)

### **Unit Seven: approximately two weeks**

Applying Critical Theory

Metamorphosis, Kafka

## **First Semester Final Exam:**

55 Multiple Choice questions from actual AP Exam  
Timed Style Analysis Essay on selected prose piece or poem

## **SECOND SEMESTER:**

### **Unit Eight: approximately six weeks**

Narrating the Past: a Class Close Reading  
The Sound & The Fury, William Faulkner

### **Unit Nine: 10 meetings over 10 weeks**

*(concurrent with Unit Eight)*

Literature Circles

Ellison's Invisible Man  
Faulkner's Light in August  
Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn  
Wright's Native Son

### **Unit Ten: approximately two weeks**

The Music of Poetry: Part One  
"Sound and Sense," Pope  
"A Fit of Rhyme Against Rhyme," Jonson  
"Player Piano," Updike

The Poetry of Loss: Part Two

"A Valediction Forbidding Mourning," Donne  
"Midterm Break," Heaney  
"Song for St. Cecilia's Day," Auden  
"Weighing the Dog," Collins  
"Shield of Achilles," Auden  
"London 1802," Wordsworth  
"Douglass," Dunbar

### **Unit Eleven: approximately two weeks**

Our Dark Side: Visions and Revisions

Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad  
Apocalypse Now, Francis Ford Coppola (film)  
Hearts of Darkness, Eleanor Coppola (documentary on Apocalypse Now)  
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe  
"Reading, Race, and Representing Others," Paul Armstrong  
"Primitivism and the African Woman in *Heart of Darkness*," Marianna Torgovnick  
"The Women of *Heart of Darkness*," Jeremy Hawthorn  
"An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's Heart of Darkness," Chinua Achebe  
"Conrad Ethics and the Margins of Apocalypse Now," Louis Griefff

### **Unit Twelve: approximately one week**

Post AP

A Room with A View, (film)

## **Second Semester Final Exam:**

55 Multiple Choice questions from actual AP Exam  
Timed Style Analysis Essay on Things Fall Apart or A Room with A View