

W E L C O M E T O

AP LITERATURE

AND COMPOSITION *with Mr. Young*

COURSE OVERVIEW

AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

The AP Lit Exam is offered May 3rd, 2023, and is strongly recommended that all register early for the exam. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. The course prepares students for success on the AP Exam, but more importantly our immersion in rich literature brings delight, insight, and a deepening capacity for empathy.

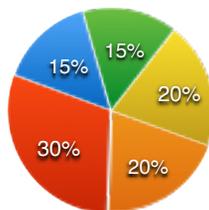
OUR CLASSROOM

We are committed to creating a space where honest differences in perspective can be respected, and even welcomed. We can be "real" with each other as we lay a foundation of respect and civility. Let us build that community together and hold one another accountable to ensure a truly inclusive classroom where all are welcome.

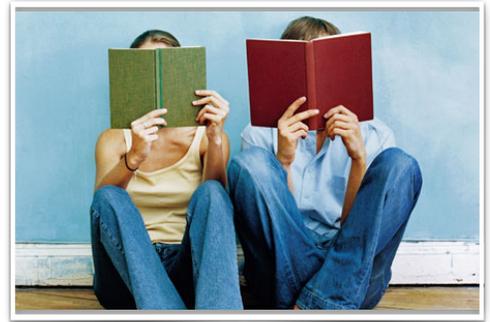
YOUR GRADE

Your grade will reflect (1) your growth, (2) your skill mastery, and (3) your completion of classroom and independent learning activities. To achieve this balanced portrait of how you're doing, individual assignments are assigned a category, which are then weighted according to the chart below to form the term grade.

- Reading Development (15%)
- Writing Development (15%)
- Classroom Activities (20%)
- Independent Reading (20%)
- Core Skill Mastery (30%)



Do I accept late work? Occasionally, but only if you demonstrate a sincere commitment to learning. Dumping a term's worth of missing assignments on my desk the final week before grades does not allow me time to offer meaningful feedback nor you time to use that feedback to improve. The English Department's policy is that students who "show a pattern of missing assignment deadlines or of turning in sub-standard work at the end of the term" may earn a "P" "C-" or "D-" as their term grade. Click [HERE](#) to read the details of our department's Late Policy.



Engaging New Perspectives

As a community of learners, we will encounter **new ideas** and **new perspectives** in this course. Stories, articles, and conversations **will challenge** our ways of understanding the world.

As your teacher, I have **no hidden agenda** to change anyone's perspective or adopt my views. I am committed, however, to helping us practice **respectful dialogue** as we engage ideas worthy of our consideration. The stories, poems, articles, and film clips we study have been thoughtfully included to represent a wide variety of characters and situations. Some characters experience difficult situations or use mature language.

Please communicate concerns with me if a passage or topic triggers unmanageable anxiety.

LANGUAGE ARTS

OUR CURRICULUM

This course adopts the College Board's suggested framework, organizing content into nine units, arranged in a logical sequence. Carefully selected literary texts and tasks help students develop the skills of literary analysis and composition as they repeatedly practice analyzing short fiction, poetry, drama and novels. At the end of each unit, Personal Progress Checks help us identify strengths and areas for improvement for each student.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

I am committed to supporting the values of academic integrity and honesty. Plagiarism and cheating represent serious breaches of trust and may result in a failing grade for assignments and, for repeat offenses, in failing the term. If you feel pressure to cheat, just relax and do your best. When I know what you can and cannot yet do, I can better support you as a learner.



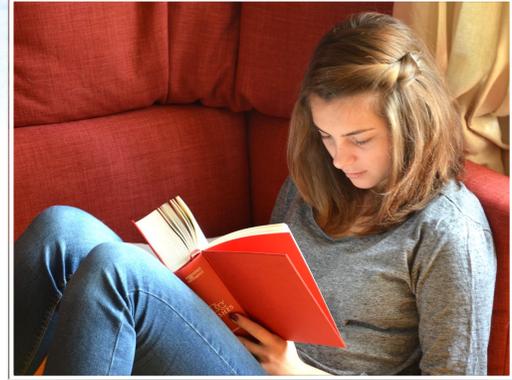
My passion is empowering young people with the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills they'll need to navigate their world effectively. I leverage the power of literature to form humane and ethical young people who empathize with others, adopt multiple perspectives, and more fully

connect to the spectrum of human experience. My family spent a year-long stay in India, where we served in leprosy colonies, ate with our hands, and discovered joy amidst suffering.

The arts and humanities enrich my personal and professional life; I began my career as a band director before pursuing a passion for literature and creative writing. My essays, short stories, and poems have appeared in several national literary journals and magazines that no one, including my own mother, has ever read.

You can contact me at

lony@provo.edu



OUR TEXTS

We will use as our principle source of literary fiction and poetry *Perrine's Literature: Structure, Sound & Sense*. If possible, students should acquire personal copies of four longer works we will study by the date listed below:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Sept 15 | <i>Lord of the Flies</i>
by William Golding |
| Dec 15 | <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
by Zora Neale Hurston |
| March 1 | <i>Macbeth</i>
by William Shakespeare |
| April 1 | <i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>
by Julia Alvarez |

Please note that these texts are widely acclaimed for their literary depth and profound themes. Together, they span much of the spectrum of human experience and reward multiple readings and careful analysis, providing the kinds of literary sources students can draw on for the AP Exam's Free Response Essay Question.

PHONES

Cell phones are to be kept in backpacks. They must not be out. Not in laps. Not in hoody pockets. Not on desks. In emergencies, parents can reach students by calling the PHS office (801)-373 6550 and requesting the office call my room extension #3402. I also allow students to step into the hall to text or call home, upon request. This respects our learning environment.

PHS electronic policy allows teachers to take phones from students for a period, or even for the school day. I hope this will not be necessary, as we respect our time and enjoy our freedom from the tyranny of phone addiction.