

AP English Literature and Composition (12)



- **Course Description:**

This course prepares the student for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination, college and life by:

- Sharpening awareness of the resources of language and the understanding of the writer's craft.
- Developing critical standards for appreciation of any literary work.
- Writing well: practicing the craft of clear, coherent and persuasive use of honest and effective language.

- **Course Expectations:**

In a year's time we expect to read and discuss eight short novels (approx. 1500 pages), five plays (700 pages), a poetry unit (500 pages), various short stories (100 pages) and some critical works (100 pages). Some of this reading may be accomplished the summer before the class begins. Class work will consist of discussions, quizzes, timed writes (approx. 45 minutes each), extended papers (3-5 pages), presentations, tests, a notebook of literary terms, and multiple-choice exams.

- **Special Projects:**

At the end of the first semester, there will be a Novel Analysis Project, which requires the reading of seven short novels, an extended paper, and a group presentation.

- **Beyond the general education course:**

This class requires very close reading and engagement. Insight and effort are both encouraged. The level of discourse is usually high, which is the principle advantage and also the challenge of the class.

- **Other:**

We will be taking an optional field trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for four days in May (after the AP Exam). We will see four plays, attend play discussions, and actor-led activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to see some first-rate theater at one of the most highly acclaimed festivals in the nation, and it has proven to be extremely popular.

Students are encouraged to purchase their textbooks, as well as supplementary works. The text is *Literature, An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama*, by X.J. Kennedy, and Dana Gioia (\$65.00). Some texts can be obtained by purchasing them, second hand, from last year's students. Students will find that being able to take notes in their own books is advantageous.