AP Literature and Composition -- Course Outline

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Welcome to AP Lit! I congratulate you on choosing the challenge of college level work during your senior year. This year, you will learn to look at literature with a trained eye and write about literature with sophistication and style. We will read engaging and demanding works from varied genres - novels, essays, poetry, satire, drama, and criticism. I look forward to taking this journey with you!

**Course Materials:**

Textbooks - *Elements of Literature, Grade 12*

 *Literature and Composition by Bedford*

\* You will need one (or occasionally both) of these in class. I will try to let you know the day before which to bring, or I will post a sign by the door.

Novels & Plays Provided (in addition to materials in the textbooks):

 *Lord of the Flies by W. Golding*

 *1984 by G. Orwell*

*King Lear by W. Shakespeare,* and others

Other Outside Reading materials may be required from the library or personal purchase.

**Supplies Needed**

Please bring these items to class with you every day:

Pens and Pencils

Highlighters (Three Colors)

Paper, college-ruled preferred

3-Ring Binder with Dividers:

 Vocabulary & Literary Terms

 Bell Work

 Class Notes & Handouts

 Major Work Data Sheets (MWDS)

\* Notebook will be checked periodically for a grade to ensure that you are keeping it organized and complete. Also, papers will be used for revision and workshop. You need to save the MWDS for all the major works we read, as these will be a valuable study tool for the AP Test.

**Writing Assignments**

A major focus of this class is essay construction as a response to literature. For that reason, we will be writing both in-class and out of class essays an average of once per week. These are the three main categories of the assignments:

**Poetry and Prose Responses** - These essays help you practice the analytical skills you will be using on your AP essays. They will be completed as homework. They must be one page, typed, and are due every other Friday, approximately 4 essays per quarter.

**Timed Writing** - patterned after the AP essay prompts, these 45 minute writings are more formal in nature than the poetry response. They ask you read a selection and respond to a specific prompt. Sometimes they will be taken home to be revised and typed; other times they will be turned in and graded as drafts.

**Formal Analysis** - sometimes including research, this is an out-of-class essay composed over a period of time, typically in conjunction with the reading of a major work. The essay topics will be assigned or sometimes chosen from a variety of options. They must be typed and will vary in length from 3 -7 pages.

**Creative Writing** - sometimes we will respond creatively to literature or imitate the style of a writer we are studying. Opportunities for creative writing will include, but are not limited to, poetry, satire, and letters.

**Grading Policy**

We now have a school-wide grading policy. All assignments will be graded out of 100 points, but they are weighted by percentage of your grade.

Assessments (Papers, Tests, Projects) = 50%

Classwork (incl. smaller Quizzes) = 40%

Homework (incl. Poetry Responses) = 10%

**Late Work** – We now have a school-wide Late-Work policy. We believe that the penalty for not doing your work should be DOING THE WORK. Therefore:

 1st day\* late = 10% off

 2nd day\* late = Parents will be called.

 3rd day\* late = You will be given after school Academic Intervention where you will be required to complete the work. If you still do not complete the assignment, then you will be given ISS until the work is complete!

\* Day refers to the next class period.

\* **AP students** : 1st period will be given one grace day since we meet every day. If you turn in major papers in-between class periods (odd days or weekends) then it is still 10% off your grade; late is late.

**Absent Work** - As AP students, I expect you to value attendance at school; however, illness happens to us all. When you are absent, you can **check my website** or the make-up work folder for handouts and activities missed. Smaller assignments are due the following day, larger assignments will be due ON the due date.

**Responsible Planned Absences** - If you know ahead of time that you will be absent, for a college visit or field trip for example, I expect you to check with me ahead of time about what you will miss. If you will be absent on a day when a major or routine assignment is due (for example, a poetry response), there are two ways that you can turn it in on time:

 1- Turn it in Early 2 -Email it to me

 \* Without an excused sick note or a letter from a parent explaining your absence, major assignments WILL be counted late for an unexcused absence or tardy!

**Class Routines**

**Handout Shelf** – Any materials that you will need for the day will be on the TOP of the black bookshelf as you enter. Please get into the habit of looking for them before class starts.

**Turn-In Boxes** – Assignments will be collected and placed in the appropriate turn-in boxes at the beginning of class. **To turn in late work**, you need to see me so that I can check you off the list due to our new late work policy (see below). If you have been absent and need to turn in work, see me with it so that I can make sure it is not counted late.

**Technology Notes**

**Cell Phone Policy** - You will sometimes be allowed or encouraged to use your cell phone for class activities or research. Otherwise, it should be kept put away during class.

**Office 365** – Every student will be assigned an Office 365 account and email address. We will use this account for classroom communication and for turning in papers. This includes drafts for Digital Review, as well as final turn-ins.

**Quizlet** – Our vocabulary words will be posted on Quizlet every other week. There is a link from my webpage. **You need to create an account and join my class for easy updates**.

**Remind.com** - Please send a text to **(804) 578-6467** and use the code **@2015apgo** to sign up for class reminders.

**SHS WiFi -** The school now has FREE WiFi!! Connect to “RCS-Secure” and use your school computer log-in information.

 **Class Rules**

1. **Be On Time and Ready to Learn.**
	* Bring all your materials, including the textbook.
	* Go to locker and bathroom before class.
2. **Contribute Respectfully in Class.**
	* Raise your hand or wait your turn to talk.
	* Listen attentively.
	* Think critically, ask questions, stay on topic.
3. **Be Responsible for Doing Your Work.**
	* Check what you have missed when you are out.
	* Do the homework on time and study for tests.
	* Be a productive team member.
	* Do not copy work from others or let them copy you.

**Consequences**

 If you choose to disrespect the classroom rules:

 1st Offense – Warning or Conference with the Teacher

 2nd Offense – In-Classroom Consequence – relocation, removal of item (phone), additional work, apology letter, behavior contract

 3rd Offense – Parent Phone Call, plus the above

 4th Offense – Sent to the Office

 \* Especially egregious offenses will be sent directly to the office. This includes profanity toward any teacher or classmate.

**Food Policy**

I do allow snacks and drinks, but you are responsible for your trash and cleaning up any messes that may occur. The privilege will be revoked if messes are not cleaned up. Snacks should be small in quantity and able to be eaten with your hands; if you have to use a spoon or fork, it is not a snack and you should eat it in the cafeteria.

The following food items are NOT allowed in class:

* Sunflower seeds (that you have to shell)
* Ice Cream – both the popsicle and spoon varieties
* Dips (wet food) – like ranch dip, peanut butter, tuna cans