



Grand Haven High School

A.P. Literature & Composition A & B

Course Number: B94

Grade Level: 11-12

Credits: 1.0 (0.5/semester)

Prerequisite Courses: While there are no required prerequisites for this course, it is highly recommended that you have taken Honors English 10 and/or A.P. Language & Composition

Course Description

[AP Literature and Composition](#) (click here for College Board information) is designed to be the equivalent of a first-year college English course. At the end of the course, students may choose to take an AP exam. Students who earn a 3 or higher on the exam may earn college credit at most universities.

The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. 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.

Course Objectives

This course focuses on the AP College Board's designated Big Ideas and Enduring Understandings, including understanding and analyzing the function of characters, settings, narration, structure, and figurative language. As students read, they will analyze how and why authors utilize these elements within their works. Students will use their analysis to develop an interpretation that will be the basis for writing a literary argument, which must include a thesis statement, specific evidence from the text, and well-developed commentary to support their thesis.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to...

- ★ **Think:** Use YOUR mind and think for yourself! Don't let the Internet, published critics, me, or anyone else formulate what are supposed to be your ideas.
- ★ **Participate:** You are the reason this class will succeed or fail. Be active in discussions. Nothing is worse than a participation-based class that is continuously silent. Open your mind to the perspectives of others. The window of literary interpretation is a large one, and there are many possible interpretations for everything.
- ★ **Keep an Open Mind:** Do not let your personal interests or tastes blind you to the merits of the literature we will study. Explore your own ideas and beliefs. Step outside your comfort zone and grow as a reader and a thinker.

- ★ **Read Actively:** Be awake, conscious, and active while reading. Pay attention to all the tools used by the author, the history of literature, and your personal reaction to it. Develop close-reading skills. Look very carefully at each work to go beyond the surface. On days when readings are due, you will be expected to have read for depth, not simply page count, so annotate, take notes, and read thoroughly.
- ★ **Take Risks:** Say what you think, not what you think others want to hear. Play with your writing style. English is a very subjective area of study. What worked for you before may not now, or vice versa.
- ★ **Foster a Desire to Grow:** Do not expect to be an expert from the beginning, and do not expect growth to occur without effort and practice. Develop a desire to improve your writing, and learn to accept suggestions and comments from your classmates and teacher. You will receive feedback on every writing assignment you turn in, but it will be your responsibility to ask additional questions and make the necessary changes. Do not turn in the same paper over and over and expect different results.

Communication

I will utilize Google Classroom to post weekly agendas and assignments.

Email is the best way to contact me.

You can also reach me on my classroom extension.

Students will also need a working College Board account in order to access their AP Classroom and take the exam in the spring.

Grading Policy

Process 40%:

This category will include all of the daily work done in preparation for our final assessments - writing practice, timed writes, quizzes, check-ins, etc...

Product 60%:

This category will include all final assessments - tests, papers, projects, presentations, etc. These major works will count toward students' final exam grade as well.

Final Exams:

In addition to the product grades throughout each semester, there will be a final exam for all students at the conclusion of each semester. Second semester seniors will be exempt from the final exam if they meet the requirements (see senior exam waiver). Taking the A.P. exam does not exempt you from the second semester exam per school policy.

Scope and Sequence

The focus of this course is the study of short fiction, poetry, longer fiction (novels), and drama (plays). Throughout all of the units, students will be reading closely, thinking critically, and writing analytically.

Writing: The goal is to prepare students for the A.P. Literature exam administered by the College Board in May, as well as to prepare them for the writing that will be required of them at the college level. Therefore, writing will be done under time constraints utilizing the College Board rubric and through formal papers set up to meet college expectations.

Short Fiction: Students will be provided short stories to read together as a class.

Poetry: Students will be studying poetry primarily through Perrine's *Sound and Sense*, as well as supplemental poems. This is a college text that breaks poetry down through important poetic devices.

Long Fiction/Drama: Students will be provided copies of novels and plays to read as a class each semester. Students are encouraged, but not required, to procure their own copies of works studied.

Independent/Outside Reading: Students will be expected to read at least two novels/plays outside of class throughout each semester. These novels will be read outside of class time, so students will need to make sure to work in time and manage due dates appropriately. Students will get to choose their own texts, but books should be of A.P. caliber/college reading level. The idea is to prepare students for the A.P. College Board exam (should they choose to take it) and college by increasing their reading stamina and repertoire. Students will need to get teacher approval for each choice.