

**Course Name:** AP Literature and Composition

**Duration:**  1 Semester  Full Year

**Grade Level:**  9th  10th  11th  12th (check all that apply)

### Are there any prerequisites for the course?

None

### WHAT this course is about:

This course is designed to help you engage with imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various time periods. You'll engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen your understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As you read, you'll be challenged to 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 you to analyze and interpret literary works.

### WHY take this course:

You'll gain confidence in yourself as a reader and writer. The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literature and writing curriculum. Passing the AP Lit exam provides potential college credit at most universities and often bypasses freshman GUR courses.

### WHAT you'll learn:

- How to actively engage with the written word
- How to effectively communicate analysis through writing
- How to better understand the craft of an author
- How to use an understanding of author's craft to enhance your own reading and understanding
- You'll learn & increase close-analysis abilities to improve your own test-taking skills, which will cross disciplines
- You'll improve your writing skills on timed assessments (common in the college world).

### WHAT you'll do:

- Read engaging literature: fiction, poetry, and drama
- Write a personal, reflective essay suitable for college admissions and scholarship applications
- Write short and sustained literary analyses
- Sharpen your reading and annotation skills
- Engage in meaningful discussion around renowned literary texts

## WHERE this could take you:

This is a course to prepare you for college-level study in the humanities and/or literature. Skills you learn here will prove valuable in many other disciplines, in the college environment and beyond.

## OPTIONAL Course Outline (“scope and sequence”, sequence chart, etc.)

**\*\*This is a SAMPLE course outline—titles will vary year-to-year**

### Summer Assignment:

- *Slaughterhouse Five*. Kurt Vonnegut

### First Semester

#### 1) Summer Reading

- Discuss the novel as reflective readers
- Review levels of questions- reading and thinking strategies
- Pre-assessment of close reading skills and writing ability
- Lay the groundwork for first literary notecard as a class- model the process/product

#### 2) Personal Essay for College Admission/Scholarship Application

- Emphasis on stylistic issues in writing
- Achieving balance between formal & creative aspects in writing

#### 3) Short fiction & Poetry: 15<sup>th</sup> century – contemporary

- Reading for & recognizing **allusion, symbolism, allegory** (*Swimming in a Pond*)
- Passage analysis
- Review TPCASTT
- DIDLS
- Passage analysis; emphasis on annotating for better understanding
- Class discussion/analysis- laying the groundwork for AP response essays

4) Begin practicing timed writes and multiple-choice passages. Focus on working with prompts, rubrics, sample papers and scoring essays, identifying literary devices and close reading.

#### 5) *The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver

- Reading for & recognizing **allusion, symbolism, allegory, narrative & poetic structure**
- Passage analysis
- Review TPCASTT
- DIDLS

#### 6) *Our Town*, Thornton Wilder

- American literature/modern American theater

- Break from “traditional theater”
- Allusion, symbol, tone

7) The literary paper: how to approach and write. Emphasis on what college instructors look for and expect in student writing; crafting a thesis; skeleton outlines

8) 1<sup>st</sup> major literary analysis paper: - topic(s) TBA.

## Second Semester

1) *Hamlet*, **1992 Folger Shakespeare Library Edition**

- Challenging text
- Cultural/worldview
- How tone is created through character

2) *Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi

- Historical fiction
- Allusion, syntax, structure, POV, Tone
- Passage Analysis

3) More poetry and other selections from AP reader

- Emphasis on passage analysis
- How do we approach, read and reflect on shorter texts from multiple genres?

4) Preparation for A.P. exam:

- AP practice exam- Score, Debrief and Discuss
- Increased work with short prose analysis
- Final poetry analysis
- Final test-taking tips

**5) AP Literature & Composition Test (May 4, 2022)**

6) *The Inferno* from Dante’s *The Divine Comedy*- 1982 translation, John Ciardi

- Allegory
- Symbolism
- Narrative techniques
- Social and cultural implications
- Tone

7) 2<sup>nd</sup> major literary analysis paper: combining literary analysis with personal experience and the connection between text and reader.