

AP Literature and Composition

Mr. Sykes
Room 13
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Course Overview:

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition. This year-long course will focus on the big ideas and understandings of AP Literature and Composition: Character, Setting, Structure, Narration, Figurative Language, and Literary Argumentation. We will be studying these ideas by examining short works of fiction, poetry, longer works of fiction, and drama. We will also be doing a lot of writing. You can expect processed pieces of writing as well as many timed writings.

Course materials:

You will need to bring whatever text we are working with on a daily basis. You will also need your Chromebooks, paper, and pen. We will be reading a variety of texts this year. Because of how the course works, we have a lot of freedom with what we want to read. Here is a list of the texts that we will all be doing in no particular order:

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
Beloved by Toni Morrison
In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
William Shakespeare Play (Most likely *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this year)

These are a few of the major works we will focus on, but there are likely to be more. It really depends on how things go. There will also be independent works as well as a lot of poetry. I will send out weekly emails that let you know what we will be reading. If you have any questions or issues with the materials we are reading, I need you to let me know in advance. We will also discuss audiobooks and how to use them appropriately.

In addition, I am going to strongly recommend that students purchase copies of the novels we read this year. It is by no means required, but it makes doing annotations much easier. I will discuss this more in class and give you an accurate price point.

Course Policies:

Late Work: Late work will be accepted at a 10% deduction per day up to a maximum of five days. Do your best to turn assignments in on time. If there is a problem that arises, please communicate with me and we will arrange accommodations.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism will result in an immediate zero on the assignment and further repercussions. Cheating will result in a zero on the assignment. Do not copy other people's work as this will result in their getting a zero as well. You should be aware that any type of AI assistance is considered plagiarism. I need to know what you all understand at any given moment, and cheating doesn't help me help you.

Grading:

I will be using a standard 10-point scale for grades. Grades will be updated weekly on PowerSchool.

A – 100-90

B – 89-80

C – 79-70

D – 69-60

F – 59-0

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit unless special circumstances arise.

Consequences:

When in violation of any rules in class, you can expect a consequence. I could post each individual consequence, but the severity of the violation will decide the consequence. Instead, here is a list of all possible punishments. I don't think that we will have to use most of these, but don't see how far you can push it.

Verbal reprimand, lunch/morning detention, after-school detention, removal from class, failure of assignment, suspension, expulsion...

Cell Phones and Technology:

Please be responsible with technology.

Personal Statement:

I am unbelievably excited to head out on this new adventure with you all. I learned a lot about the course in the last three years and have adjusted it in a way that I think will better suit your needs. Over the first few days I want to gain a better understanding of what it is each of you wants to gain from this course. We will be paying close attention to the course exam description, as it is my hope that all of you will take the exam in the spring. A major goal of this course is to develop and deepen an appreciation for literature. We will be reading a large number of texts. You can expect the majority of reading to be completed outside class. I understand that all of you are very busy. It is your senior year after all. I promise that I will respect and value your time and never have you do something that is beyond your scope. If you ever think that what I am asking of you is unreasonable I encourage you to contact me. You will be able to reach me via email or on teams. I can't wait to go on this literary adventure with all of you. It's going to be a great and memorable year!