

Course Requirements and Student Expectations

An AP English Literature and Composition course will engage you in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, you will deepen your understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As we read, we will consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. My goal for you in this course is to read deeply and widely a plethora of genres and styles of literature.

Additionally, writing is an integral part of this college course, focusing on the critical analysis of literature and including expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Successful students will achieve:

- A balance of generalization with specific illustrative detail
- A logical organization enhanced by techniques like transition, repetition, and emphasis
- A variety of sentence structures
- A wide-range vocabulary used with denotative accuracy and connotative resourcefulness
- Effective use of rhetoric, including controlling tone, maintaining a consistent voice and achieving emphasis through parallelism and antithesis

You will write both outside of class and in class and papers will go through a process of design, peer and self evaluation, and rethinking and revising. Nothing replaces self-reflection. I can guide you and offer suggestions through our writing conferences and my comments, but only you can improve your writing.

Required Texts: *Literature and Composition* Jago et. al.
 Seamus Heaney: Beowulf. A New Verse Translation; 2001 Edition
 The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer
 Additional texts with student selection

Supplies: Paper, pens, pencils, highlighters, a 3-ring binder that is used for English work only, and a composition notebook that will be used for the collection of new vocabulary and poetry.

Grading Policies: Students are expected to be in class every day, fully prepared and well-read. This course has a heavy reading load; students who keep up will not become discouraged. Late work will not be accepted after the due date has expired. If an assignment is due and the student is absent, (s)he must be certain I receive the work on or before the due date. This is a college course, and I will give you ample notice of due dates; therefore, while I will always enjoy visiting with parents, do not embarrass either of us by having your parents contact me with an excuse.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as taking, giving, or using ideas, writings, or information from another source and offering it as your own. Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated in this classroom and will automatically result in a zero for the assignment.

Jackson High School subscribes to the essay clearing house Turn-It-In.com. All papers will be submitted electronically both to turnitin.com and in our classroom forum in order to utilize that service.

Grades: All grades will be based on a numerical point system with homework and group work worth 15% and tests, quizzes, compositions, and AP objectives worth 85% of the overall grade. At the close of the grading period, the points will be calculated and then given a scale using the following percentages:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Make sure you know how the weighted grade system works. Only an A or a B will be weighted (A=5 points and B=4). Cs and Ds are not weighted. Also, you must take the AP test this spring in order to receive the weighted value of the grades in your final grade point average. Your performance on the test does not affect this rule.

Because the AP test is a crucial part of this course, you will frequently complete actual AP multiple-choice exercises and AP essays during the class period. You will be evaluated as you will be on the actual test. This means that these exercises will frequently have an adverse effect on your grade (especially at the beginning of the year). These grades will always count. However, in order to offset this, I will provide numerous opportunities to raise your grade to a more desirable level through writing assignments, projects, and class work. Please note: Even with these assignments, frequent poor scores on an AP exercise could put an A out of reach. That is the nature of the Advanced Placement curriculum. Also note: I am always here to help and to work with you to improve your performance on these exercises.

Participation/Participation Points: Participation is an integral part of this course. Not only do students learn better by discussing assigned material, but also I as the teacher am able to discern whether students have mastered the material. Therefore, I will occasionally award points for class participation. While the number of points may vary, they will be based on preparedness, sophistication of comments, extent of participation, and respect for classmates and their opinions.

MLA/ APA Style: All papers assigned in this course must be typed and must follow appropriate format requirements. We will use both APA and MLA formatting styles this year. Please be prepared to follow instructions.

These include but are not limited to:

- One inch margins all around
- A 12 point font (Times New Roman)
- Pagination in the upper right corner of each page
- Appropriate first page heading
- MLA reference citations, as appropriate
- APA reference citations, as appropriate

Student Expectations:

- The works we study were chosen for their classic nature, for the author's recognized style, and for the work's frequent appearance on the AP exam. Because this is a college course, students are expected to handle sophisticated material with maturity and grace.
- Make use of writing conferences. Available times will be posted. I encourage your allowing me to read and comment on your college application essays.
 - Please Note: There will be scheduled tutorials after papers are returned for those students who have problems with stylistic errors.

- I return papers as soon as they are scored; therefore, do not ask me if an assignment is graded. I teach many students. I need and appreciate your patience.
- All assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due. No late assignments will be accepted.
 - Please Note: Be prepared: if your printer should run out of ink, it is your responsibility to arrive early to print your paper. I will not do this for you. Additionally, no papers will be accepted unless they have first been submitted to turnitin.com.
- I will not begin to write letters of recommendation until after I have known you for 12 weeks. I reserve the right to decline writing you a letter if I do not feel that I know you well enough or if your work, study habits, participation, and attendance have not been exemplary.
- As we explore literature together, I expect you to be sensitive to the views of others. Please do voice your opinions, remembering that others may totally disagree (it's all in the tone!). Respect and courtesy are the keys to successful class discussions.
- If you must be absent the day a test is given, you will take it immediately upon your return. Be prepared. Remember that you must present a valid excuse on the day of your return to be eligible for make-up work.
- Honesty is a must in our relationship.
- No cell phone use in class, please.
- Students will not consume candy, food, or beverages during class.
- Students must be in their assigned seats and ready to go when the bell rings. Failure to do so will result in a tardy and, ultimately, a detention.
 - Please Note: You will not be permitted to go to your lockers once you arrive in class and restroom breaks will be addressed as needed.