

AP 12 Course Description

AP 12 students will be confronted with a rigorous schedule of reading, interpreting, discussing and writing about college-level literature. Throughout the course students will be invited to share insights and interpretations with fellow classmates during large and small group discussion. Students should be able to demonstrate familiarity with the literature and a growing facility with literature analysis.

In accordance with the AP Course Description, the complex goal of the course is to

- help students grow in their knowledge and love of literature and their regard for the people who create it;
- teach them to read, write and discuss works within and without the evolving literary canon with precision, sensitivity, energy and imagination;
- recognize the imaginative linkages that words can provide between human beings across oceans or centuries even as they attempt to understand the distinctive and sometimes divisive cultural contexts that inspired or shaped the texts presented;
- encourage them to develop a deep and abiding resonance with some literary texts;
- help students discover pattern and purpose in individual texts and respond to the themes;
- allow them to shape their own values and preferences with respect to both the style and substance of others; and
- Prepare them for a lifetime of observations and ideas.

Because the class will function as a community of learners, if students are committed to the work as well as to listening to and learning from each other, this class will ultimately become one in which all are teachers and students. We will learn from each other, read writing aloud, and work collaboratively on revisions.

In conference with students, two individualized focus correction areas are determined. One of these FCAs will entail working on mechanical problems in the writing, while the other will be geared toward substance, readability and organization. Students meet with teacher by appointment before and after school, and at lunchtime for conferences. As weaknesses are eliminated, new foci are developed.

As students are invited to participate in AP English Literature, it is assumed that they successfully completed the 9-11 sequence in which the writing of Harper Lee, John Steinbeck, Arthur Miller, Ernest Hemmingway, Pat Frank, Elie Weisel, Homer, William Golding, William Shakespeare, Mary Shelley and Laurie Halse-Anderson were read and analyzed.

2010 Summer Reading

How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster: read and respond as assigned.

School Year

Poetry: a variety spanning four centuries but concentrating on the metaphysical, renaissance, restoration, and modern poets.

Drama: *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, major works by Henrik Ibsen and a variety of shorter works.

Fiction: Varies from year to year but might include: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy, *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and *Their Eyes were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, as well as a host of shorter fiction.

AP Test Prep: Multiple choice practice using poems and excerpts from longer works, as well as responding in writing to a prompt.