

Advanced Placement Literature SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mrs. Lloyd

Conference Hours: By appointment on
Monday (3:20-4:00) or 10:45-11:05 Tues, Thurs

Room: 203

Phone: 216. 229.0139

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to engage college-bound students in the critical analysis of imaginative literature. It is in conjunction with Kenyon College and every student receiving an A or B grade will receive college credit for the course. Rubric driven writing assignments and interactive reading will help students think analytically, understand, and enjoy literature. Students will read constantly, write frequently, and think relentlessly through discussion of the following essential questions:

- How does literature reflect the human condition?
- How does literature help us understand ourselves and others?
- How does literature express universal themes?
- How has writing become a communication tool across the ages?

Emphasis will be placed on helping students develop writing skills through workshop style instruction. There will be a writing workshop each week. The writing workshop will involve students in writing and rewriting formal, extended analyses and timed in-class responses. Feedback will be given both before and after student revision. The kinds of writing in the workshop are varied, but include writing to understand, writing to explain and writing to analyze.

COURSE GOALS:

- 1) To understand the way we use language to provide meaning and pleasure
- 2) To be able to read and critically analyze imaginative literature
- 3) To consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as literary elements such as figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone
- 4) To study representative works from various genres but to know a few works extremely well
- 5) To consider the social and historical values a work reflects and embodies
- 6) To write focusing on critical analysis of literature including expository, analytical and persuasive essays, as well as creative writing
- 7) To become aware of the resources of language through speaking, reading, writing and listening

UNITS

Concentration on works of recognized literary merit from various genres and periods will help students focus on the following interconnected themes:

1. **Heroes:** *Who are the people we admire?*
2. **Identity:** *What does it mean to be human?*
3. **Hard Choices:** *Why and how do we interpret "Experience"?*
4. **Freedom, Power, and Justice:** *What is the individual's relationship to government?*
5. **Truth and Belief/ Doing the Right Thing:** *How do we know right from wrong?*
6. **Honor:** *Is honor a dying characteristic?*

AUTHORS/TEXTBOOKS

We will use a variety of resources including Elements of Literature and the Riverside Anthology of Literature, along with library books, newspapers, magazine articles, audio and visual resources that help put the central question in a contemporary light.

Students will read from authors including but not limited to the following:

Poetry (Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes, William Shakespeare, Robert Frost, Robert Hayden, Rita Dove, Emily Dickinson, Laotzu, Pat Mora, Luis Rodriguez)

Drama (Lorraine Hansberry, Oscar Wilde, August Wilson, Amiri Baraka, David Henry Hwang, Luis Valdez)

Fiction (Chinua Achebe, James Baldwin, Sandra Cisneros, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Maxine Hong Kingston, Mark Twain, Tim O'Brien, Alice Walker, Walter Dean Myers)

Essays (Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy, E.B. White, Maya Angelou, Henry David Thoreau, Chief Seattle, William Lloyd Garrison, Lani Guinier)

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS/ HOMEWORK

Three-prong folder, Spiral notebook, 3-ring ½-inch binder, ink pens, flash drive (optional: computer and printer)

There will be a vocabulary, reading, and writing homework assignment weekly. Late homework will not be accepted for full credit unless the student has an excused absence and turns the work in by the deadline for make up work. If unexcused work is turned in one day late, 20% will be deducted. Tardy students will receive a zero for any work missed.

We expect students to show enthusiasm for learning. Welcome to an exciting journey in literature!

CLASS NOVELS: Novels will include but not be limited to:

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

ASSESSMENT

- Imperative to successful completion of this course, you will need to organize your time to meet scheduled reading and writing deadlines.
- Assessment of learning is based upon class discussion and activities during class, tests on books and other reading selections, short and extended writing assignments completed both in class and out of class, and unit exams utilizing multiple choice and essay questions similar to the AP Exam.

EVALUATION

Grading Scale:

A= 93-100%

B= 84-92%

C= 73-83%

D= 63-72%

F= 0-62%

I have read the syllabus and understand the expectations and policies for the KAP Literature course. (Please return by Friday, January 28, 2009)

Parent Signature

Student Signature

KAP (Kenyon Advanced Placement)
English Literature and Composition
Mrs. Beverly Lloyd, Instructor