

AP English
Mr. Cautero

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Course Description and Expectations

Overview: AP English, while focusing on content that includes the survey of literary periods and the significant works of important authors, is designed to develop and sharpen skills designed to make you college and career ready. The course emphasizes close reading, analysis, and thoughtfulness in writing and discussion. In addition to reading significant works that include novels and plays, we will also carefully examine *many* poems. The *required* culminating activity for the class is the AP Exam, which I will prepare you for via timed analytical essays, lectures, the review of sample tests and homework assignments. The senior project is a year - long research paper and project that all students must successfully complete. We will also be working on the personal essay for college admission.

Literary Periods:

Elizabethan Renaissance
The Early 17th Century
Neo-Classical Period
The Romantic Period

Victorian and Late Victorian
Early 20th Century
Modern Literary Period

Major Literary Works – I typically select a range of works that may include the following:

Crime and Punishment
Hamlet
The Little Prince
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
Invisible Man

Siddhartha or Demian
The Metamorphosis
Canterbury Tales
1984
Jane Eyre

Literature Texts: *Norton Anthology of British Literature*; *Sound and Sense*, and *The Language of Literature*;

Grades: All assignments are given a point designation and will be weighted in accordance with AUHSD policy. Writing will comprise 60-65% of your grade; Tests / quizzes :15% - 20% Homework / classwork: 10% - 15% and the first semester Final is weighted 15%. I grade on a traditional point scale; 90% and above is an “A;” 80% and above is a “B,” etc.

Writing: In addition to homework assignments that involve writing, you will write many in-class timed essays and a senior research paper that is 8-10 pages in length.

Speaking and Listening: Students **MUST** actively listen and participate in classroom discussions, oral readings, group projects and panel presentations. Students will continue to practice effective presentation and listening skills throughout the year and will present their senior project and paper second semester.

Literary Terms / Allusions and Grammar: I will provide you with handouts explaining important words and literary terms / allusions that you must know. It will be your responsibility to effectively utilize the terms you learn in your literary analyses. I will refer to the Owl at Purdue website and other sources for guidance and instruction in language correctness and MLA essay formatting.

Tests, Essays and Quizzes: All essays, tests and projects are announced well in advance. *However, expect quizzes on material covered in class and on reading assignments every day.*

Homework: All *homework assignments will be posted daily on the classroom white board and on the LL School Loop website*. This is an AP Honors class and homework completion is essential. Most of your homework time will be spent reading from the required texts. Time spent reading and completing other assignments varies but I estimate that you should plan on at least 60 minutes of homework 4-5 nights/week

Participation: Your active involvement in the class is mandatory, so it is important that you are in class and **on time**. In addition, involvement means you are pay attention during discussions and lessons, take notes and are always prepared. Because this is an AP class I will look to ensure that you are pushing yourself beyond the literal meaning of the selections we read.

Materials: Students must have an organized binder. I prefer you designate one binder for the course; however, if you have a large enough binder you may choose to allocate half of it to ONE other subject. Divide your binder into categories that make sense for you. You will get many handouts and packets that *must* be kept for the entire year, and you will take notes that will help you succeed in the course. You must keep all your work, particularly your essays because we will work on continually trying to improve the quality and depth of your written work. You must always bring your binder and designated literary work to class every day.

Tardy Policy: Being tardy means not being in your assigned seat when the final class bell rings. My tardy policy is in accordance with school policy.

Deadlines and Attendance: All assignments are due on the due date. After an excused absence, immediately find out what work you have missed so we can schedule make-up work and deadlines. **You have TWO days upon your return from school to schedule make-up work.** If you are truant you get a “0” for missed work. Unexcused absences and excessive tardies will result in disciplinary action and detention during Friday School.

Electronic Devices: Using personal electronic devices such as smartphones during class is not permitted unless I state otherwise.

Classroom Decorum: You are experienced enough to know how to act appropriately in class. The classroom will be a safe sanctuary where ideas are freely and courteously shared. A failure to abide by this simple rule will result in appropriate consequences that are in accordance with district and school policy.

Plagiarism: AP English is an advanced honors class. While being expected to maintain the standards of academic excellence, **it is MOST important that your actions at ALL times are honorable.** Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated and will result in a disciplinary referral, a “0” for the assignment and the potential expulsion from AP English. Keep in mind that plagiarism includes taking ideas that are not yours and including them in an essay / presentation without proper citation. While you may put someone else’s words or ideas in your own words, this still constitutes plagiarism if you do not cite your source. I will review how to properly cite sources this year. Refer to your planner for a more comprehensive description of actions that constitute academic dishonesty and the consequences for violating the honor code.

Summer Assignment: In an effort to underscore literary analysis focused on in AP English and encourage the practice of life-long reading and critical thinking, students will carefully read two selected works over the summer and be tested on the material on the first day back from summer break.

Please read the following two texts over the summer: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte and Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*.