

## AP English Literature & Composition Course Sign-Up Information

Senior year you have two options when choosing which English class to take: Expository Reading & Writing or AP English Literature & Composition. To help you choose, here is some information about AP Lit.

AP English Literature & Composition is a college-level English class in which students read novels, plays, and poetry (works of fiction) and write essays about them. We look at the meaning of the work as a whole and how authors create that meaning. We also look at how authors create meaning through the use of literary devices such as detail, diction, syntax, and imagery. In this class, we operate under the assumption that, yes, the author did do that on purpose.

While it is not mandatory that you take it, Advanced Placement English students are potentially able to earn college credit and/or college placement test exemptions by earning a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam. Also, they earn a GPA bump by earning a C or better in the course (for example, a C counts as a B).

### **In AP English Literature & Composition you will:**

1. complete a summer assignment
2. read approximately six to eight novels/plays over the course of the term, three of which are independent reading assignments
3. write approximately ten essays

### **Things current AP students thought you would want to know:**

1. The class is more focused on the analysis of and writing essays about what we read than simply focused on reading fiction.
2. There is no extra credit offered in the class.
3. There is no late work accepted in the class, except when you have late work passes. You get 2 passes for essays/projects, and 3 passes for homework. Each pass gives you two extra days to complete assignments. The passes are all you get the entire course.

### **To be in the class:**

1. Complete your current English class with a C- or better both terms.
2. Choose AP English Literature & Composition on your course request sheet.
3. That's it--no essay this year. If you want to be in the class, sign up for it. I look forward to teaching you next year.

## **AP English Literature--Commonly asked Questions**

### **Q: What if I don't know whether or not I should take this class?**

A: Come speak with Mrs. Smith room 351 in C Building. She can explain what the class is like and help you decide. Ask students who took her class this year what the class is like. Ask your current English teacher; they should have good insight into your abilities and work habits. See point 4 on the AP Contract on the other side of this document for qualities typical of an AP student.

### **Q: What if I didn't take AP Language in 11<sup>th</sup> grade?**

A: There are always students in AP Lit who didn't take AP Lang. Taking AP Language is NOT a requirement for taking AP Literature. Come speak with Mrs. Smith. She can help you decide if AP Lit is the class for you.

### **Q: What if I'm too scared to talk to Mrs. Smith? I hear she's strict, mean, and/or scary.**

A: Mrs. Smith is very nice. Ask current students. No one has ever mysteriously disappeared after talking to her. © She only asks that you not disturb her classes. Drop by before or after school, between classes or during early lunch.

### **Q: When will summer work be available?**

A: Summer work will be available between May 11 and May 22 in room 351. You will need to turn in your signed AP Contract to get your summer work.

### **Q: When will the summer work be due?**

A: The first week of school in August—no matter which term you are scheduled to be in the class.

## Advanced Placement Course Contract

Please read the following statements carefully. Your signature indicates that you understand and agree to abide by the statements and terms below:

1. Some AP classes fulfill graduation and A-G requirements that students need in order to graduate and/or qualify for four-year universities. Be aware that if you fail an AP class in your senior year, you may not have time to make up necessary credits.
2. Weighted grades will only be conferred to students who pass an AP class with a grade of C or higher. Grades of C- and lower will not be conferred the AP weighted grade.
3. Students wishing to drop an AP course must: 1) do so by the 2nd Friday the term, 2) go through Ms. Straessler only, and 3) have a parent/teacher conference.
4. The typical student who benefits from AP classes demonstrates the qualities below. AP coursework is not appropriate for many high school students, and may overwhelm those who are not sufficiently prepared for the increased workload.
  - Highly motivated.
  - Self-directed.
  - Well-organized.
  - Works productively with others.
  - Minimal behavioral problems.
  - Proficient with basic technology.
  - Has post-secondary goal(s)
  - 3.33 or higher GPA in core classes.
  - Grade of B in preceding subject-area class.
  - 90%+ attendance.

I am enrolled in the following AP courses for the 2019-2020 school year:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Biology                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AP English Language & Composition (Grade 11)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Chemistry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> AP English Literature & Composition (Grade 12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Environmental Science       | <input type="checkbox"/> AP European History                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Physics                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AP U.S. History                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Statistics                  | <input type="checkbox"/> AP U.S. Government                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Calculus AB                 | <input type="checkbox"/> AP French Language & Culture                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Calculus BC                 | <input type="checkbox"/> AP Spanish Language & Culture                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Computer Science Principles | <input type="checkbox"/> AP Studio Art 2D Design                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AP Computer Science A          |   |

\_\_\_\_\_, parent of \_\_\_\_\_.

Print name of parent/guardian

Print name of student

*I have read and understand the policies outlined above and agree to their terms as they apply to my child as an AP student at River City High School.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*I have read and understand the policies outlined above and agree to their terms as they apply to me as an AP student at River City High School.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date