

COURSE: AP LITERATURE

SCHOOL: Capital Christian High School

SCHOOL YEAR: 2014-2015

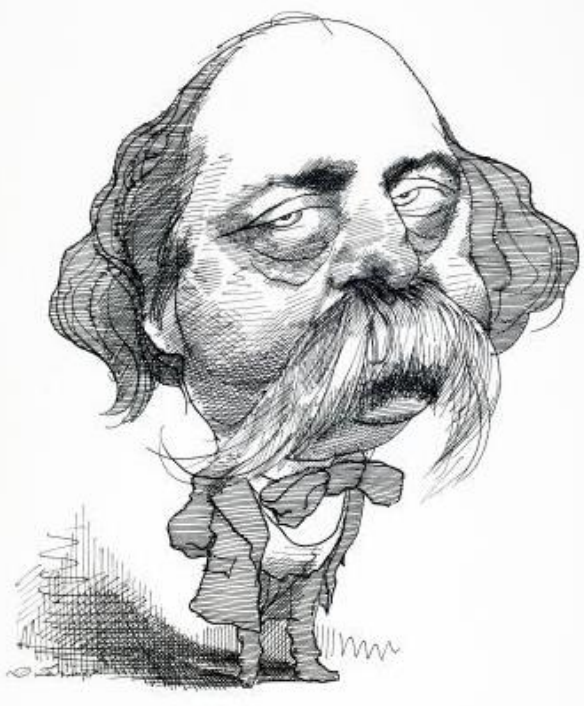
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“Language is a cracked kettle on which we bang out tunes to make the bears dance, when what we long for is to move the stars to pity.”

—Gustave Flaubert



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This one-year course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement (AP) exam in English Literature and Composition at the end of the school year. We will be making a careful study of representative works by British and American authors, as well as some that come from other cultures and have been translated into English. These texts include works of fiction (both novels and short stories), poetry, and drama from the 14th century to the present. In addition to reading the texts, we will critically analyze them for literary devices that are unique to the specific genres and explore the biographical and historical contexts that led to their creation.

Students will be given numerous opportunities to explore their understanding of literary texts through informal and formal writing assignments, including analytical essays and a research paper. Students will be expected to identify and draw upon textual details in order to explain or interpret a chosen work of literature, and papers should reflect an appropriate use of literary vocabulary, a variety of sentence structures, and a logical organizational strategy.

Prerequisite: In order to participate in this course, students must earn at least a “B” in English 11, be recommended by the English 11 teacher, and turn in the required summer assignments.

Special Notes: Taking the AP English Literature and Composition Exam is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. The exam will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, and the fee is \$89. A deposit of \$20 is due on Friday, **August 29, 2014**, and the balance of \$69 is due by Monday, February 2, 2015. Please make checks payable to CCS.

AP Literature students will also be participating in the annual trip to Ashland, OR (Sept. 13-15). We will be staying two nights in Ashland and attending three plays at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. This trip is mandatory, and the cost for tickets and lodging is \$300. A \$100 deposit was due at the end of May, and the remaining **\$200** is due by Friday, **August 22, 2014**. Please make checks payable to CCS. Students will also be responsible for the cost of their own meals (approx. \$75).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, 9th edition, Ed. Michael Meyer (ISBN: 978-0312601010)
- *The Little Seagull Handbook* by Richard Bullock and Francine Weinberg (ISBN: 978-0393911510)
- *Grammar Exercise Workbook: Grade 12* (ISBN: 978-0133616965)
- *Dictionary of Classical Mythology* by J.E. Zimmerman (ISBN: 978-0553257762)
- *Candide* by Voltaire, Trans. John Butts (ISBN: 978-0140440041)
- *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, Trans. Matthew Ward (ISBN: 978-0679720201)
- *Wise Blood* by Flannery O'Connor (ISBN: 978-0374530631)
- *The Divine Comedy* by Dante, Trans. John Ciardi (ISBN: 978-0451208637)

Note: Purchase of these texts is the responsibility of parents and students. Please plan on having these books in hand by Friday, August 22, 2014.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Quarter 1: Introduction to Literature and Fiction / Novel

We will begin examining the very nature of literature by exploring the criteria used to determine the literary quality of a text, the role of the literary canon, and the primary strategies for interpretation. This will be followed by an introduction to the major elements of fiction, including plot, character, setting, point of view, symbolism, theme, style, tone, and irony. Comprehensive discussions and detailed analyses of three novels, *Candide*, *The Stranger*, and *Wise Blood*, will allow us an opportunity to practice critical reading skills.

Primary Texts: Select chapters from *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, *Candide*, *The Stranger*, and *Wise Blood*

Quarter 2: Fiction / Short Story

Using the tools of analysis introduced during the first quarter, we will read and discuss a wide variety of short stories and then turn our attention to a careful study of two American authors, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Flannery O'Connor.

Primary Texts: Select chapters from *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*

Quarter 3: Poetry

We will begin with an introduction to the major elements of poetry, including word choice, word order, tone, imagery, figures of speech, symbolism, allegory, irony, sounds, patterns of rhythm,

and poetic forms. We will read and discuss a wide variety of poems and finish with a careful study of two American poets, Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost, and a detailed analysis of *The Inferno* (the first part of *The Divine Comedy*).

Primary Texts: Select chapters from *The Bedford Introduction to Literature* and *The Inferno*

Quarter 4: Drama

Beginning with an introduction to the major elements of drama, including plot, setting, dialogue, character, theme, and stage directions, we will read and discuss a wide variety of plays and conduct a careful study of three important playwrights, Sophocles, Shakespeare, and Arthur Miller.

Primary Texts: Select chapters from *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. *Attendance.* It is expected that you attend each class period. If you are absent, however, it is **your** responsibility to get notes from another student—the instructor will not provide you with notes.
2. *Assigned Readings.* It will be critical to the running of this course that you come to class having already read the text assignment(s) for that day; these will be listed on the course calendar. Class discussions will be conducted under the assumption that you are current in your reading.
3. *Participation in Class Discussions.* It will be important for you to participate in class discussions. The learning process is greatly enhanced when each member of a class actively engages in asking questions and in offering personal insights.
4. *Personal Supplemental Reading.* In addition to the assigned reading, you will need to read one supplemental book each quarter. You may choose which book you would like to read, but it must be approved by the instructor (for length, appropriateness, etc.). There will be an assignment associated with the reading, and the instructor will provide you with a detailed handout explaining this.
5. *Classwork.* Classwork will be assigned to help you better understand the texts you will be reading or the academic writing process. These assignments will mostly be completed during class, but may need to be finished as homework from time to time. Classwork is not listed on the course calendar; instead, your instructor will inform you of due dates.
6. *Notebook.* It is expected that you take notes during this course. Plan on using them to study for exams.
7. *Reading Quizzes.* As a means of motivation, and to help prepare you for the course exams, you will be given a reading quiz on the first class day of each week. These quizzes will cover the required readings, and you can refer to the course calendar for specific pages.
8. *Practice AP Exams.* To further prepare you for the AP exam, you will be given several opportunities to practice with multiple-choice and essay questions that are typical of the AP exam. Please refer to the course calendar for specific dates.
9. *Exams.* There will be two formal exams given during each semester, a mid-term and a final. These exams will be based on assigned readings, handouts, lectures, and class

discussions and may include both standardized forms of questions as well as essay questions.

10. *Grammar Worksheets*. You will be introduced to the basic elements of English grammar and will practice using these elements in the *Grammar Exercise Workbook*. Please refer to the course calendar for specific dates.
11. *In-Class Reading*. Part of each Friday's class will be dedicated to silent reading. What you read will be up to you (texts required for this class, books you've selected for your personal supplemental reading, texts required for other classes, etc.); however, this does not include on-line materials, text messages, tweets, etc. You will not be allowed to complete written work during this time.
12. *Informal Essays*. You will be asked to write a wide variety of informal essays that focus on critical analysis and interpretation of select literary texts. On Tuesday of each week, the instructor will provide you with a question, and you will be expected to create a written in-class response that is at least 500 words in length. These essays are to be collected in a journal format (you will need to purchase a notebook or journal for this assignment) and turned in to the instructor by the end of class each Tuesday.
13. *Formal Essays*. You will be asked to write two critical essays during the first semester and one during the second semester. The instructor will provide you with a detailed handout explaining this assignment, and you can refer to the course calendar for due dates.
14. *Research Paper*. You will be required to write one research paper during the second semester. You will be asked to turn in a proposal, a rough draft, and a final draft. The instructor will provide you with a detailed handout explaining this assignment, and you can refer to the course calendar for the due dates.
15. *AP Exam*. You will be required to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam at the end of the second semester.

WRITING BASICS (for formal papers):

1. All papers must be typed and stapled.
2. Times New Roman (12 point) is the **mandatory** font.
3. All margins should be one inch.
4. Each paper must be turned in as a hard copy at the beginning of class on the day it is due.
5. Each paper must be electronically submitted to *Turnitin*. The instructor will provide you with a detailed handout concerning this.
6. Minimum length requirements are as follows:
 - Formal Essays: three full pages (excluding works cited page)
 - Research Paper: five full pages (excluding works cited page)
7. Modern Language Association (MLA) format is required (please refer to the *Seagull* text for details).
8. Each paper should be original work. *Plagiarism* is defined as:
 - Not properly documenting your source(s)
 - Not using quotation marks to indicate material that has been copied word-for-word
 - "Copying and pasting" information into a document to use as your own work

- Blatantly using another’s work as your own (i.e. borrowed or purchased papers) Plagiarism will result in a “0” for the assignment and a referral to the Dean of Students.
9. Each paper should be generated specifically for this course. *Recycling* is when you turn in a paper that you originally wrote for a different class or semester. A recycled paper will result in a “0” for the assignment, with the opportunity for one credited rewrite.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

1. You are expected to complete all assignments.
2. **Late Policy:** Homework is considered late if it is not turned in at the beginning of the class period on the day it is due (except informal essays which will be due at the end of the period). Email submissions will not be accepted. For each calendar day an assignment is late, 10% of the total possible points will be subtracted (this includes weekends). This late policy applies for **all** possible contingencies (with the exception of approved absences), including unexcused absence, computer/printer difficulties, etc. If you know you are going to be absent, it is better to turn in work early.

3. First Semester:

Grammar Worksheets	(5%)
Vocabulary Quizzes	(5%)
Reading Quizzes	(10%)
Supplemental Reading	(10%)
Mid-Term Exam	(15%)
Final Exam	(20%)
Informal Essays	(10%)
Formal Essays	(25%)

	100%

4. Second Semester:

Grammar Worksheets	(5%)
Vocabulary Quizzes	(5%)
Reading Quizzes	(8%)
Supplemental Reading	(10%)
Mid-Term Exam	(12%)
Final Exam	(20%)
Informal Essays	(10%)
Formal Essay	(10%)
Research Paper	(20%)

	100%

5. Semester Totals
 - A: 90-100%
 - B: 80-89%
 - C: 70-79%
 - D: 60-69%
 - F: 0-59%

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 8/22 Signed syllabus due
- 8/22 \$300 for Ashland trip due (\$200 if you already paid \$100 deposit)
- 8/22 Have all of the required books in hand by this date
- 8/29 \$20 deposit for AP English Language and Composition exam due
- 2/2 \$69 balance for AP English Language and Composition exam due
- 5/6 AP English Language and Composition exam

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

The English department website is an important resource for you to use during the school year. It has information about the department, our English program, and this course. It also makes available resource pages on MLA format, grammar, and literature.



www.ccsengl.weebly.com

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

You should not be using any electronic device during class (e.g. phone, tablet, e-reader, laptop, etc.) unless you have explicit instructor approval. Failure to abide by this policy may result in the instructor holding onto the device for the remainder of class, an email being sent to parents/guardians, or a referral being sent to the Dean of Students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

The syllabus functions as a sort of contract between the instructor and the student and is, therefore, an important document. Please read the entire syllabus and sign below, indicating that you have done so. Return the acknowledgement form to the instructor by Friday, August 22, 2014, and keep the syllabus so you can refer to it as needed throughout the year.

I have read the course syllabus for AP Literature.

Parent/Guardian:

_____ (print name) _____ (signature)

Date: ____/____/____

Student:

_____ (print name) _____ (signature)

Date: ____/____/____