

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH

NAME OF COURSE: AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

This is a course designed to prepare twelfth grade students to take the Advanced Placement Exam. Accordingly, the workload is demanding and the course content is sophisticated.

Although there is regular consideration of the specific structure and requirements of the A.P. exam, the course does not attend primarily to the test. Rather, it provides training in literary appreciation and analysis through class discussion and a variety of writing assignments. The emphasis is on the development of independent thinking and critical skills.

MAJOR TOPICS COVERED

This course will encourage students to make "connections" among various important works of literature spanning different genres and historical periods, thereby enriching the reading experience. Some authors whose work is read are Shakespeare, Jonathan Swift, Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, Joseph Conrad, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Franz Kafka, James Joyce, Toni Morrison, Samuel Beckett, Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller, and Zora Neale Hurston and Jean Rhys. In addition, extensive study of poetry will be included.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Averages for each quarter are based on major essays, which receive more weight than minor assignments; written interpretations of selected passages; reading quizzes; and class participation. Students are encouraged to rewrite essay assignments and improve their grades.

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

All students enrolled in the course are responsible for a summer assignment: a selection of challenging literary works and a response journal.