

**Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition**  
**Instructor: Mrs. Heckman**  
**Seh573@interact.ccsd.net**

**GRADE: 12**

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to assist students in cultivating analytical thinking skills. The course is intended for college-bound students who seek instruction and practice in close reading, critical thinking, sophisticated compositional techniques, and literary analysis through reading classic and renowned works. Students are given substantial reading assignments and are expected to respond and evaluate actively—through discussion and written assignments—to the works' thematic and stylistic structures. The overarching goal of AP Literature and Composition is to help the student develop mature habits of critical thinking as an independent reader of and writer about literature. Tests often reflect the Advanced Placement format—multiple-choice tests and timed in-class essays. While the pace of the class will be intense, the course will be intellectually stimulating. The instructor's expectations are high and include a serious work ethic and regular attendance. The main goals for this course are to foster love of learning, reading, writing, and philosophical exploration and to help prepare students for the English Literature Advanced Placement Exam, the CLEP Test, or to construct a solid foundation for their Freshman Composition/Survey of Literature courses in college.

**II. PREREQUISITES**

This course is designed to challenge the highly motivated college bound student who has been successful in prior writing and literature courses. Students should already have knowledge of and experience with the writing conventions and research skills. Students should also possess strong independent reading skills and should be prepared to write frequently. Intrinsic motivation is key to success.

**III. MATERIALS / TEXTBOOK**

Students will be provided with X.J. Kennedy's Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama. Vocabulary study will continue with SAT words, which will be provided on handouts along with vocabulary from the literature that is read. Paperbacks will be supplemented as needed.

**IV. ACROSS THE CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:**

- A. Organization/Study Skills – The teacher will advise students during the first week of school regarding the importance of being prepared daily for class. It will be required that students have their notebooks, Cougar Planners, and pens **each day** when class begins. The teacher will check to see that these requirements are met. Objectives will be written on the board weekly, and students will be required to write the objectives and homework assignments in their Cougar Planners.
- B. Writing – Students will practice writing techniques that they have developed in their previous English classes.
- C. Technology – the Internet, computer software, Powerpoint, DVD, video, and overhead transparencies will all be used throughout the school year to enhance learning.

## V. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. To develop accurate, perceptive reading skills through close study of major texts representing various literary genres
- B. To cultivate analytical thinking skills by asking pertinent questions, seeing relationships between form and content, and observing how language contributes both literally and figuratively to the meaning of the work
- C. To understand the technique of poetic devices as they affect and enhance meaning in a poem
- D. To become familiar with the terminology conventionally associated with the literary criticism process
- E. To understand and apply philosophy from the major schools of literary criticism
- F. To develop the ability to quickly formulate a coherent line of reasoning and to express that reasoned argument in lucid, concise prose
- G. To generate independent, thoughtful, and analytical discourse during class discussion
- H. To identify the characteristics of a writer's style
- I. To develop a broad vocabulary and use it effectively
- J. To collect data from secondary sources, use it judiciously, and document it accurately using the MLA format
- K. To write concisely and accurately in response to a given prompt using the conventions of standard written English with skill and assurance
- L. To summarize clearly and accurately the ideas of others
- M. To write appropriately for different occasions, audiences, and purposes

## VI. COURSE OUTLINE

FIRST QUARTER: Short stories, review of the elements of fiction, prose literary terminology, Kafka's The Metamorphosis, James' Turn of the Screw, 8 weeks of SAT vocabulary study, sentence structure practice, AP multiple choice practice, and one outside reading novel (either Austen's Pride and Prejudice or Morrison's Beloved—student choice)

SECOND QUARTER: Dostoyevsky's Crime and Punishment, Conrad's Heart of Darkness, vocabulary study, literary terms review, AP multiple choice practice, and one outside reading novel (Barbara Kingsolver's The Poisonwood Bible)

THIRD QUARTER: Shakespeare's Hamlet, elements of drama, Stoppard's Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, elements of comedy, extensive poetry unit including Renaissance sonnets, Metaphysical, Romantic, and contemporary poems, review of poetic devices, poetic terminology vocabulary, AP multiple choice practice, and one outside reading drama (student choice of a Shakespearean comedy—see list)

FOURTH QUARTER: Continuation of poetry unit, with emphasis on Victorian and 20<sup>th</sup> century poems, review of schools of literary criticism and research project, AP practice tests with additional emphasis on preparation for the AP exam, Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest, and one outside reading drama (Miller's Death of a Salesman)



The participation grade includes classroom behavior, being prepared and on time for class, as well as participating in all classroom activities and staying on task. Students should **always** have in their possession either their outside reading novels or class novels for any periods of SSR that may present themselves (finishing a test early, etc.) Major classroom disruption will result in the loss of participation points for that day. AP Lit students should ALWAYS have something to read! Students who choose to sleep during class will also lose participation points for that day. If a student is not prepared for class or is tardy to class, participation points will be deducted.

Cheating, copying homework, or plagiarizing will result in an automatic "U" in the student's quarterly citizenship grade. Inappropriate classroom behavior or disruption of class will result in the reduction of the citizenship grade. Excessive tardies may also result in the reduction of the citizenship grade.

**Tests and Quizzes** **30%**

Includes weekly vocabulary quizzes and tests and exams, which will be administered in the AP Test format of multiple choice and timed in-class essays. Announced or unannounced reading quizzes may be given.

**Assignments** **20%**

Typical assignments may include three or four column notes for vocabulary, response and analysis questions, or writing exercises. Students will be required to be intimately familiar with 6 Major Works' Study Guides in preparation for the AP exam.

**Essays** **40%**

Writing is a crucial element in this course. Essays will include in-class timed writings as well as assigned out of class writings. Essays written outside of class will be submitted via Turnitin.com. A research project will be completed during the fourth quarter.

D. Grades will be earned based on the following scale:

89.5 – 100 =	A
79.5 – 89.4 =	B
69.5 – 79.4 =	C
59.5 – 69.4 =	D
0 - 59.4 =	F

E. Your semester grade will be determined by the following method:

First quarter grade	40%
Second quarter grade	40%
Semester exam	20%

**F. MAKE - UP WORK**

1. Make up work is available to students upon their return. Students must check the class assignment calendar, posted in the classroom, to determine missed work. If further explanation is needed, students must either see me before or after school. Do not discuss make up work once class has begun and the day's activity is under way. When a student is absent from class, he or she has three (3) days to turn in any make up assignments. After this time period has passed the student will receive a zero for the missed assignment. Any notes the student has missed can be copied from the Sample Notebook, which is always available

to students. Students should come in before or after school or make arrangements with me to copy any missing notes. Obtaining discussion notes from a classmate would also be beneficial.

2. **Major Quiz/Test Make Up Policy** - Students who are absent (excused or unexcused) on the day of a previously announced major quiz or test must be prepared to take the missed test or quiz immediately upon return from the absence. Absent students should not expect any grace period due to the absence. In order to ensure fairness to all students, no additional study time should be expected for students who are absent on major test days. To arrange to make up a major test or quiz a student must see me IMMEDIATELY upon his or her return to school to make the appropriate arrangements. A student will be given a maximum of three days to make up major tests and quizzes. If a student chooses not to make up the test or quiz in an appropriate and timely manner, he or she will receive a zero on the test or quiz. Previously scheduled presentations cannot be made up barring a debilitating illness or family tragedy as deemed legitimate by the instructor.

## VIII. ATTENDANCE

- A. If you exceed 10 absences per semester you may not receive credit for this course.
- B. It is the responsibility of the student to sign the Tardy Sheet if he or she arrives to class late. Otherwise it may result in a recorded absence. The Coronado Tardy Policy will be strictly followed.
- C. Regular and consistent attendance is important for success in this course. Our study of literature will be broad and historical. Much of the lecture and discussion completed in the classroom will enhance the student's understanding and analysis of the literary works.

## IX. ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

- A. Every assignment completed for this course will have the student's first and last name, date, period, and assignment title on the top, **left-hand side** of the first page as is used in the **MLA format**. Multiple page homework assignments **must be turned in stapled**. We will not spend the first five minutes of class stapling the previous night's assignment. Arrive in class with your assignment prepared.

*Example:            John Smith  
                          August 25, 2003  
                          Period 3  
                          3-Column Note Vocabulary*

- B. Students must complete assignments in blue or black pen on regular notebook paper. (no fringes)
- C. When responding to questions students are required to write in complete sentences and restate the question in their answers. Students may NOT use any unidentified pronouns in their answers

*Example: What happened between Romeo and Juliet at the Capulet ball?*

**Wrong:** He kissed her.

**Correct: At the Capulet ball, Romeo was overwhelmed by his powerful feelings and impetuously kissed Juliet.**

- D. **Final drafts** of essays written outside of class will be submitted to Turnitin.com in 12 pt. Font (Arial or New Times Roman fonts only), double-spaced, and will use one-inch margins. Use the standard MLA heading and creatively select and center a title for all out-of-class essays. When appropriate, MLA format (6<sup>th</sup> edition) will be used for all critical documentation.
- E. Failure to complete assignments according to the above guidelines (including MLA format – 6<sup>th</sup> edition) will be considered a format error and will result in a partial loss of points.

## X. **BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

- A. All Coronado High School/CCSD policies will be followed in our classroom.
  - 1. No portable CD players or radios of any kind will be allowed in the classroom. If I see one, I will confiscate it and turn it in to the dean's office.
  - 2. Cell phones will not be permitted to be out of the student's book bag or pocket during class or passing periods. Cell phone use on campus is limited to before school, after school, and lunch. If a cell phone rings during class or **is visible to the teacher** it will be confiscated and taken to the dean's office.
  - 3. PDAs (Palm Pilots) will be permitted to copy down homework assignments and due dates during the beginning or end of class. During the class period, PDAs must be kept in the student's book bag. The official PDA policy is still under consideration by the CCSD; however, it is recognized that PDAs may be used to cheat on tests or send messages during class. For that reason if any PDA is out or in use for any reason other than recording due dates, it will be confiscated and taken to the dean's office.
- B. Tardies: Tardiness will be dealt with according to the CHS tardy policy. **You must sign the Tardy Sign-In sheet as soon as you enter the classroom.** If you have a pass please hand it to me immediately.
- C. Instruction and class activities begin when the tardy bell rings and end when the dismissal bell rings. Avoid "packing up" before class ends.
- D. Students are to remain in class the entire period. Passes will be given only for legitimate and necessary situations. **Passes will not be issued to students without their Cougar Planners.**
- E. Students are expected to actively participate in all class activities.
- F. No food, drinks, or gum allowed in the classroom. Water is the only exception to this rule. Even Starbucks' beverages will be deposited into the trash upon entry!
- G. Class Rules:
  - No sleeping.
  - The 3 R's
    - READINESS** - be prepared for class! Textbook, Notebook, Pen, Student Handbook
    - RESPECT** - for other students' right to learn, for my right to teach, and for property belonging to others.
    - RESPONSIBILITY** - for your own actions and decisions!

-Mistakes are OK! It's the lack of effort that constitutes failure.

- H. Disciplinary action will be taken for inappropriate/disruptive behavior.
  - 1. Verbal warning/student-teacher conference
  - 2. Parent contact
  - 3. Counselor referral
  - 4. Dean referral
- I. Approach each day with a positive attitude and enthusiasm!
- J. **PLAGIARISM – Plagiarism, the use of another's ideas or words without properly crediting your source is unethical, academically dishonest, and illegal. At many colleges, plagiarism can result in a student being expelled from school. It will not be tolerated in this class and will result in an automatic (0) zero on the applicable assignment and a "U" in citizenship for the quarter. While the advent of the Internet has made plagiarism easier for students to perpetrate, it has also made it easier for teachers to catch. All outside writing at CHS will be submitted via Turnitin.com, a software program which checks for plagiarism.**

**In addition to this policy on plagiarism, I would like to make it clear that the following policies will prevail in our class:**

**\*Students are expected to do their own work. Any evidence of copied work or cheating in any way will result in a (0) zero on that assignment, test, or quiz for all parties involved.**

**\*It is impossible for a teacher to know the subject of a conversation which occurs during a quiz or test; therefore, any talking which occurs during a quiz or a test, whether related to the subject matter or not, will result in a grade of (0) zero for all parties involved.**

## **XI. Independent Reading**

You will be required to obtain and read four works outside of class. I will provide you with a specific list and the assignments which will accompany each novel or play.

**Cliff Notes** – Cliff Notes (and its clones) do have a place in our world; however, these tools should only be used to assist you in forming your own ideas about a piece of literature or to help clarify confusing sections of the text. Never depend on Cliff Notes to do more than help you make sense of confusing plot or character details. Literary criticism and analysis should always come from you. Reading Cliff Notes will not substitute for reading the actual literary work. You are only cheating yourself. At the university level, NEVER allow your professor to catch a glimpse of Cliff Notes in your possession. NEVER!

## **XII. Supplies / Notebook Requirements**

- A. notebook (3-ring binder, I recommend 3")
- B. textbook (bring to class each day unless instructed otherwise)
- C. black or blue ink pen
- D. one spiral bound notebook with three holes to keep inside your 3-ring binder
- E. #2 pencil – for major exams and practice AP tests
- F. loose-leaf notebook paper
- H. 10 notebook divider tabs

- I. stapler
- J. Cougar Planner
- K. book cover for textbook

\*\*If supplies represent a financial hardship for any student, please see me before or after school.

I. You are required to keep a notebook (3 ring binder, at least 3") for English. Your notebook will be checked periodically, and a notebook grade will be earned. There are numerous handouts in this class, so I do not recommend sharing a binder with another subject. I have found that the students with organized notebooks earn higher grades than those students with a pile of papers tossed into a backpack. Start the year organized and keep organized. Organization is definitely a stepping stone to success in AP English! The ten notebook tabs should be labeled as follows:

1. Procedures
2. Independent Reading (keep your spiral bound notebook here)
3. Vocabulary
4. Prose
5. Drama
6. Comedy
7. Poetry
8. Writing
9. AP Exam Tips
10. MWSGs

***A sample notebook will be available to the student at all times to address any questions regarding notebook organization.***

XIII. Students and parents are encouraged to preview all required reading for this course. All texts and supplementary literature appear on the AP list and on national high school recommended reading lists. The English Department at Coronado High School maintains a focus on teaching classics as a preparation for higher education and for life. If any text is deemed objectionable, please notify the instructor immediately and an alternate selection will be assigned. The evaluation of the alternate text will be comparable, but may not be identical.

**XIV. Parent / Teacher Contact**

Mrs. Heckman  
AP English Literature and Composition  
Coronado High School – 799-6800  
**Seh573@interact.ccsd.net**

**Making this class a successful and educational experience is my highest priority. If at any time a student has questions or needs extra help, he or she is encouraged to contact me, and I will do my best to accommodate his or her needs. If at any time parents or guardians have questions or concerns, they are encouraged to call me at Coronado at 799-6800 or send an e-mail to **Seh573@interact.ccsd.net** I will respond within 24 hours of receiving the message. Often e-mail messages are viewed more quickly than phone voice mail, so I encourage the use of e-mail. Working as a team, I know that we can make this class a valuable educational experience.**

**Please sign the following sheet that states that you have read and understood the expectations and procedures of this course.**

## FILM PERMISSION SLIP AND SYLLABUS ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT

Dear Parent (s)/ Guardian(s):

Throughout the year, students enrolled in AP Literature and Composition will be shown various films or film excerpts in class to reinforce or further identify concepts being studied. All of the films shown in class adhere to the CCSD limitations of the 6150 regulation; therefore, a parent / guardian permission slip is required for a "PG" rated film **regardless of the age of the student.**

Those students who do not return this permission slip by the prescribed due date will not be allowed to view the in-class films. These students will be given an alternate assignment with no penalty to their class grades. Students absent during a film showing will also be given a comparable make-up assignment.

Please sign below and return this page with your young adult.

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in film viewing for AP Literature and Composition. (Please print the student's name.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent / Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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### Course Expectations Acceptance Statement

I have read and understand the expectations required of me in AP Literature and Composition as per this Course Expectations Syllabus. I am aware that to successfully complete this course of study, I need to attend class on a regular basis, actively participate in class or small group discussions, complete and turn in assignments for grading, and conduct myself in a respectable and mature fashion while in class. I understand that help is available to me if requested in a reasonable time frame.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Student Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

I have also reviewed this syllabus with my young adult, and we are aware of its contents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent / Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)