

COURSE DESCRIPTION

You should be aware that an AP course in high school is equivalent to a college-level course. AP English Literature is designed to cover a full year of freshman English, a 5 on the exam may waive you out of your entire college English requirement.

My goal in AP English is to simulate the challenge of an introductory course in college. To that end, there will be a heavy workload and numerous assessments throughout the year, but *no busywork*. This is an advantage for good readers, as the vast majority of the work is reading and discussion. However, for those who do *not* keep up with the reading, this can be a serious problem, as the reading is how you prepare for the exams. Those who don't read will find their test performance suffers for it, and the tests make up the bulk of your grade points.

There will be no make-up tests, very little extra credit work, and late assignments will *NOT* be accepted without my *prior* approval. This is the way things work in college, so you'd best get used to it now, especially if you want to do well on the AP Exam.

It is important that you understand AP English is different from many other AP exams, such as Biology or Statistics, which evaluate your grasp of progressive, empirical concepts that you master throughout the year. The AP English exam evaluates your *analytical and writing skills*, which can be improved upon, but cannot be taught in a systematic hierarchical manner. The extensive readings and discussions, the essays and the practice tests, are meant to give you the experience you need to do well on the exam.

All students enrolled in an AP course should plan on taking the AP exam. This will be a factor in your final grade, regardless of your score. There are fee waivers available for students who qualify, see me for details. If you do not take the exam, your grade may be negatively impacted.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading Policy:

Fall

Weekly Practice Tests (Each multiple choice test is worth 50 points, the essays are worth 20 points each, for a total of 110 points every four weeks)

2 Essays (200 points each)

4 Vocabulary Tests (50 points each)

Discussion/Participation (100 points)

Attendance (100 points)

Spring

Weekly Practice Tests (Each multiple choice test is worth 50 points, the essays are worth 20 points each, for a total of 110 points every four weeks)

AP Exam (100 points)

Presentation (100 points)

1 Essay (200 points)

4 Vocabulary Tests (50 points each)

Kindergarden Week (100 points)

Poetry Reading (100 points)

Discussion/Participation (100 points)

Attendance (100 points)

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=59% and below

Remember:

- Tests *must* be taken on the dates scheduled. They cannot be made up, *period*. This is a non-negotiable condition of enrollment. There will be a test *EVERY FRIDAY*, and I will offer *ONE extra credit diagnostic this year which you can use as a make up for any tests missed during the year. I will also throw out ONE test score per quarter*. This class is not a good fit for chronic absentees.
- Essay due dates are **absolute**. There will be no extensions or late work accepted except under extreme circumstances such as a death in the family or serious illness. If you run into difficulties with an essay, it's in your best interest to let me know about it as soon as possible.
- The AP Exam counts for roughly 10% of your second semester grade, so plan on taking it unless you can afford to lose the credit altogether. If you have difficulties with regards to the test fee, you may apply for a fee waiver from the school. See me for more information.
- Any student who falls below 70% for the Fall may be asked to leave the class in the Spring, as this demonstrates a lack of commitment to the principles of the course.
- **And MOST Importantly: English is a graduation requirement.** If you do not earn at least 60% in both semesters, you will not graduate in June. No exceptions.

READING

In order to ensure that this AP English class prepares you for the exam, you will be expected to read the following titles before May. *You must complete the reading assignment before the scheduled lecture.*

Copies of all the texts are available through the school, but you may want personal copies of the novels and plays, all of which are available at Barnes & Noble, Borders or Amazon.com. Amazon will probably have used copies of these titles available for a lower price, as do our local used bookstores. If buying your own books is a hardship for you, many of these texts are in the public domain and available online, please check for links below so you can print out your own copy. It's useful to have a text you can mark up.

You **MUST** have a copy in class during the week in which they are scheduled. **DO NOT COME TO CLASS WITHOUT A COPY OF THE BOOK...**that will be considered lack of preparation, and your participation grade will suffer.

Reading List (listed alpha by title; author/genre)

1984 by George Orwell (novel)
A Rose for Emily by William Faulkner (short story)
Beloved by Toni Morrison (novel)
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (novel)
 "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale," from *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (poetry)
Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton (novel)
Selections from Fables for Our Times by James Thurber (short stories)
For the Union Dead by Robert Lowell (poetry)
Hamlet by William Shakespeare (drama)
How I Met My Husband by Alice Munro (short story)
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (drama)
M. Butterfly by David Henry Hwang (drama)
A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift (essay)
Mourning Becomes Electra by Eugene O'Neill (drama)
The Once and Future King by T. H. White (novel)
The Oresteia by Aeschylus (drama)
Pathedy of Manners by Ellen Kay (poetry)
Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw (drama)
The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro (novel)
Six Degrees of Separation by John Guare (drama)
Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake (poetry)
Shakespeare's Sister by Virginia Woolf (essay)
The Wasteland by T.S. Eliot (poetry)
We Were the Mulvaney's by Joyce Carol Oates (novel)
Wit by Margaret Edson (drama)
Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez (drama)

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Film List

Please make every effort to view these films on your own time, *before* the lecture date. We will not have time to view them during class,* but I will be referring to them in the lectures. Make sure to see the specific versions listed. I recommend looking them up on imdb.com to make sure you get the right ones.

Title/Year/Director

1984 1984-Michael Radford
Beloved 1998-Jonathan Demme
Brave New World 1980-Burt Brinckerhoff
Brazil 1985-Terry Gilliam
Ethan Frome 1993-John Madden
Hamlet 1996-Kenneth Branagh
Hamlet 1990-Franco Zeffirelli
The Importance of Being Earnest 2002-Oliver Parker
Pygmalion 1938-Anthony Asquith
Mourning Becomes Electra 1947-Dudley Nichols
My Fair Lady 1964-George Cukor
The Remains of the Day 1993-James Ivory
Six Degrees of Separation 1993-Fred Schepisi
The Sword in the Stone 1965-Walt Disney
Wit 2001-Mike Nichols
Zoot Suit 1981-Luis Valdez

***If there is sufficient demand, we may schedule dates, prior to the lecture, to view these films after school.**

WRITING WORKSHOP

Most Mondays are Writing Workshop days. You will have one major writing assignment each quarter, worth roughly 20% of your grade, as follows:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Personal Statement	Critical Essay	Research Paper/ Presentation	Kindergarden/ Poetry Project

There will be mini-deadlines each week--you must get your papers stamped to receive full credit--but no grade will be entered until the cumulative writing portfolio is submitted at the end of each of the first three quarters. The portfolio should include the following:

- A *handwritten* complete, stamped rough draft with peer response comments. *You will receive partial credit if your work does not follow the guidelines or does not have a stamp indicating it was turned in on time.* (50 points) **DON'T LOSE THIS!**
- Two *typed* complete, stamped revised drafts (revisions), which should be taken through a full editing, proofreading and revision process. *You will receive partial credit if your work does not follow the guidelines or does not have a stamp indicating it was turned in on time.* (50 points) **DO NOT LOSE!**
- An immaculate final draft, which should be *visibly different from the revision*. Remember, reprinting does not equal revision. (100 points)

Portfolios should be clean and neat, with your name on the front, but *not* bound. With over a hundred of these, I don't want the extra bulk of the binder/folder to lug around. At 200 points, they are the single most important grade each quarter (about 20%), so don't drop the ball.

PRESENTATION

At the end of the year, during the three-week downtime between AP testing and finals, you will adapt your Research Paper into a Powerpoint-style presentation to be given in front of the class. Think of it as a performance, with visual aids. You may use music, photographs, artwork, whatever will enhance your audience's understanding of the piece.

KINDERGARDEN/POETRY PROJECT

For your final, you will spend one week reflecting on your K-12 educational experience, and write a poem that expresses your feelings at the end of this important phase of your life. You will read the poem out loud in front of the class for your final. This is both a very simple and deeply powerful experience...you get out of it what you put into it. Don't chicken out with a superficial poem, dig a little.

DISCUSSION/PARTICIPATION

When we have lecture/discussions, I will keep track of who is participating, and who offers particularly insightful comments. This is why it's important to **RAISE YOUR HANDS AND TAKE TURNS TALKING**...if you say something brilliant, but I can't hear you, you won't get credit.

I will also initiate discussions on the AP blog. When you post a comment, I will consider it based on the quality of insight, strength of analysis, and writing mechanics. At the end of each quarter, I review the postings to determine this portion of your discussion grade. **This does not mean that you should post a lot, but that you should make sure your posts are GOOD ones.** Posts that do not contribute to the discussion of the works we're studying are not going to help your grade. Please keep the comments appropriate and relevant to the topic.

There are several other concrete items that will count towards your participation grade.

- **Have your materials in class, on time. Don't make excuses, just be prepared.**
- **Use class time to do the work that you're supposed to be doing. Being off-task lowers everyone's morale.**
- **Be a worthy peer editor..."it was nice" is not adequate commentary when someone is sharing something they put a lot of effort into writing. If you're editing a piece that does not demonstrate effort, be honest but diplomatic in your criticism, encourage your peers to do their best.**

PRACTICE TESTS

You will take the equivalent of **EIGHT (8)** practice AP exams this year (the actual exam is a three hour test). All except the first diagnostic are considered part of your course grade, and cannot be made up, however, **the diagnostic is considered extra credit, which will help compensate if you have problems with a later exam.**

Each practice exam will consist of a full slate of multiple choice questions (about 50) and three essay questions. One essay will be based on a prose passage, one on poetry, the other will be open-ended.

All tests will be administered on Fridays. Results will be tallied up every four weeks, when we have a full set of scores to calculate.

Please note that Practice Exams cannot be made up. Do not be absent on these days.

A special note to those prone to messy handwriting: Please make a concerted effort to be legible. Although I would not consciously lower your grade because it is hard to read your writing, I can't deny that when I am annoyed, I am less forgiving. This is also true of the official AP test scorers. Don't make me--or them--irritable with your chicken scratches...write neatly, in dark ink.

ATTENDANCE

Don't be tardy, don't be absent. Let me know well in advance if you have scheduling conflicts. You will receive 100 points for attendance at the beginning of each quarter. **Each absence beyond the first two will cost you 10 points of your Attendance grade, a tardy is 5 points.** Again, this is not a good class for chronic absentees or tardies.

I make a big deal out of attendance because we're up against a very strict deadline. The AP English Literature test is scheduled for Thursday May 7th, 2009. We have just over 150 class days before the test, so I have something scheduled for almost every one of those days, although there are a handful of flex-days in case there are schedule changes (Senior Picnic, illness, etc...) As it is, we are at a disadvantage compared to school districts that start in August, so every day before May is precious. Don't squander them. Once the test is over, we'll have some down-time.

Please review the calendar very carefully, and let me know immediately if you have a problem. If you give me reasonable notice, I will do everything I can to find a solution. If you wait until the last minute, there isn't much I can do.

AP ENGLISH SYLLABUS 2008-2009**mst****VOCABULARY LIST****A**

1. ABATTOIR
2. ABERRATION
3. ABSTEMIOUS
4. ACRID
5. AGORAPHOBIA
6. ALCHEMY
7. AMALGAM
8. AMANUENSIS
9. AMORPHOUS
10. AMPLITUDE
11. ANATHEMA
12. ANODYNE
13. ANTIPATHY
14. ANTIPHONY
15. ANTIPODE
16. APERTURE
17. APHORISM
18. APOTHEOSIS
19. ARCANE
20. ARGOT
21. ASHEN
22. ASSIDUOUS
23. ASSIGNATION
24. ASSIMILATE
25. ATAVISM
26. AUGURY
27. AUTOMATON
28. AVATAR
29. AVER
30. AVUNCULAR

B

31. BALEFUL
32. BANAL
33. BEHEMOTH
34. BENEFICENT
35. BENISON
36. BEREFT
37. BIBULOUS
38. BIFURCATE
39. BILIOUS
40. BILLET
41. BUCOLIC
42. BULBOUS

C

43. CACOPHONY
44. CANARD
45. CAPACIOUS
46. CAPARISON
47. CAPRICE
48. CARAPACE
49. CARNAL
50. CATAclysm

51. CERTITUDE
52. CHAGRIN
53. CHANGELING
54. CHOLERIC
55. CIRCUMLOCUTION
56. CIRCUMSPECT
57. COMPENDIOUS
58. COMPUNCTION
59. CONCOMITANT
60. CONDESCEND
61. CONFABULATION
62. CONFLAGRATION
63. CONFRERE
64. CONSORT
65. CONSTERNATION
66. CONSUMMATE
67. CONTENTION
68. CONTRETEMPS
69. CORPULENCE
70. CREPUSCULAR
71. CUCKOLD

D

72. DALLIANCE
73. DENOUEMENT
74. DENUDE
75. DERIDE
76. DESICCATE
77. DESOLATION
78. DESULTORY
79. DETRITUS
80. DEVOLVE
81. DICHOTOMY
82. DICTUM
83. DIDACTIC
84. DIFFIDENT
85. DILATORY
86. DISAPPROBATION
87. DISSOLUTION
88. DOLEFUL
89. DULCET
90. DUPLICITY

E

91. EFFACE
92. EFFETE
93. EFFICACIOUS
94. EFFICACY
95. EFFUSION
96. ELAN
97. ELUCIDATE
98. ELYSIUM
99. EMANATE
100. EMETIC

101. ENERVATE
102. ENMITY
103. ENSCONCE
104. EPOCH
105. EQUANIMITY
106. ERSATZ
107. ERUDITE
108. EVISCERATE
109. EXACERBATE
110. EXCORIATE
111. EXECRATE
112. EXEMPLARY
113. EXIGENCY
114. EXPIATE
115. EXPOSTULATE
116. EXUDE
117. EXULT

F

118. FATUITY
119. FEALTY
120. FECKLESS
121. FECUNDATE
122. FELICITOUS
123. FETID
124. FILAMENT
125. FIRMAMENT
126. FLAXEN
127. FORTISSIMO
128. FRESHET
129. FUGUE
130. FURTIVE
131. FUSTY

G

132. GARISH
133. GARRULOUS
134. GENTRY
135. GESTICULATE
136. GRANDILO-
QUENCE
137. GREGARIOUS
138. GUILF

H

139. HABITUE
140. HALCYON
141. HIRSUTE
142. HUBRIS

I

143. IGNOBLE
144. IGNOMINIOUS
145. IMBROGLIO
146. IMPERIOUS
147. IMPERVIOUS
148. IMPETUOUS
149. IMPLACABLE
150. INCESSANT

151. INCHOATE
152. INCULCATE
153. INCURSION
154. INEXORABLE
155. INGENUE
156. INIQUITY
157. INSOUCIANCE
158. INTERLOCUTOR
159. INVEIGLE
160. INVIDIOUS
161. IRRESOLUTE

L

162. LACONIC
163. LAMBENT
164. LANGUID
165. LASSITUDE
166. LEVIATHAN
167. LIMN
168. LITHE
169. LITIGIOUS
170. LUBRICOUS
171. LUCRE
172. LUGUBRIOUS
173. LURID

M

174. MAELSTROM
175. MAGNANIMOUS
176. MALADROIT
177. MALAISE
178. MALEDICTION
179. MALEVOLENT
180. MALODOROUS
181. MATINAL
182. MAWKISH
183. MEGALOMANIA
184. MELANGE
185. MELLIFLUOUS
186. MENDICANT
187. MERETRICIOUS
188. MIASMA
189. MINISTRATION
190. MINUTIAE
191. MNEMONICS
192. MODICUM
193. MONOLOGIST
194. MONOMANIA
195. MORDANT
196. MORIBUND
197. MOROSE
198. MULTIFARIOUS
199. MUNIFICENT
200. MYRIAD

AP ENGLISH SYLLABUS 2008-2009**mst****VOCABULARY LIST****N**

201. NASCENT
 202. NATATORIUM
 203. NEFARIOUS
 204. NETTLE
 205. NEXUS
 206. NIHILISM
 207. NOBLESSE
 OBLIGE
 208. NOISOME
 209. NONPLUS
 210. NOUVEAU RICH
 211. NOXIOUS
 212. NUBILE

O

213. OBDURATE
 214. OBEISANCE
 215. OBFUSCATE
 216. OBJURGATE
 217. OBLITERATE
 218. OBSCURANTISM
 219. OBSEQUIOUS
 220. OBSIDIAN
 221. OCHER
 222. ODIUM
 223. OFFICIOUS
 224. OLEAGINOUS
 225. OMINOUS
 226. OPALESCENT
 227. ORDURE
 228. ORNATE
 229. OROTUND

P

230. PALAVER
 231. PALLID
 232. PANACHE
 233. PANOPLY
 234. PANTHEON
 235. PARADIGM
 236. PARAGON
 237. PAROXYSM
 238. PARTURITION
 239. PARVENU
 240. PATE
 241. PATHOS
 242. PAUCITY
 243. PEDAGOGUE
 244. PEDANT
 245. PEJORATIVE
 246. PELLUCID
 247. PENCHANT
 248. PENULTIMATE
 249. PENURY
 250. PERDITION

251. PEREMPTORY
 252. PERFUNCTORY
 253. PERNICIOUS
 254. PERSIFLAGE
 255. PERSPICACITY
 256. PERSPICUOUS
 257. PERVADE
 258. PIQUANT
 259. PITHY
 260. PLATITUDE
 261. PLENTITUDE
 262. PLETHORA
 263. POLYMATH
 264. PORCINE
 265. POTATION
 266. PRECARIOUS
 267. PRECIS
 268. PRECIPITOUS
 269. PREDILECTION
 270. PRESAGE
 271. PRESCIENCE
 272. PRESTIDIGITATION
 273. PRETERNATURAL
 274. PREVARICATE
 275. PRIAPIC
 276. PROCLIVITY
 277. PRODIGIOUS
 278. PROFLIGATE
 279. PROPENSITY
 280. PROPITIOUS
 281. PROTUBERANT
 282. PROVENANCE
 283. PRURIENT
 284. PURLOIN
 285. PURVEY
 286. PUTATIVE
 287. PUTRESCENT

Q

288. QUERULOUS
 289. QUEUE
 290. QUIESCENT
 291. QUISLING
 292. QUIXOTIC
 293. QUOTIDIAN

R

294. RAFFISH
 295. RANCOR
 296. RAPACIOUS
 297. RAPT
 298. RECALCITRANT
 299. RECONNOITER
 300. RECTITUDE

301. RECUMBENT
 302. REDOLENT
 303. REMONSTRATE
 304. REplete
 305. RESPLENDENT
 306. RESONANCE
 307. RETICENT
 308. REVULSION
 309. RIPOSTE
 310. RIVULET
 311. ROISTER
 312. RUMINATE

S

313. SALACIOUS
 314. SALIENT
 315. SALLOW
 316. SALVO
 317. SANGFROID
 318. SANGUINE
 319. SATURNINE
 320. SAURIAN
 321. SCATOLOGICAL
 322. SCROFULOUS
 323. SED ENTARY
 324. SENTENTIOUS
 325. SEPULCHER
 326. SEPULCHRAL
 327. SERAPHIM
 328. SERE
 329. SERENE
 330. SERPENTINE
 331. SILIBANT
 332. SIMULACRA
 333. SINECURE
 334. SINEW
 335. SMARMY
 336. SOBRIQUET
 337. SODDEN
 338. SOLICITOUS
 339. SOMNAMBULISM
 340. SONOROUS
 341. SOPORIFIC
 342. SORTIE
 343. SPURIOUS
 344. SQUALOR
 345. STENTORIAN
 346. STOIC
 347. STOLID
 348. STRATAGEM
 349. STRIDENT
 350. STULTIFY

351. SUCCINCT
 352. SUPERANNUATE
 353. SUPINE
 354. SUPPLICANT
 355. SURFEIT
 356. SURREALISM
 357. SUSURRANT
 358. SWARTHY
 359. SYCOPHANT

T

360. TABLEAU
 361. TACITURN
 362. TACTILE
 363. TANTAMOUNT
 364. TAUT
 365. TEDIUM
 366. TINTINNABULATION
 367. TRANSMOGRIFICATION
 368. TREMULOUS
 369. TROIKA
 370. TUMESCENT
 371. TURGID

U

372. UBIQUITOUS
 373. ULULATE
 374. UMBRAGE
 375. UNADULTERATED
 376. UNBIDDEN
 377. UNCTUOUS
 378. URBANE

V

379. VACUOUS
 380. VAPID
 381. VENAL
 382. VERISIMILITUDE
 383. VERNAL
 384. VEXATIOUS
 385. VICTUAL
 386. VIRULENT
 387. VISCID
 388. VORACIOUS
 389. VORTEX
 390. VOYEUR
 391. VULPINE

W

392. WAN
 393. WANTON
 394. WRAITH
 395. WRETCH
 396. WRITHE

Z

397. ZEALOT
 398. ZEITGEIST
 399. ZENITH
 400. ZOOMORPHIC

Student & Parent Agreement

SIGN AND RETURN BY THURSDAY, 9/11/08

We have read and understood the AP English handout containing the course description and syllabus.

I, _____, agree to the following course policies:

- Practice Tests may only be taken on the dates scheduled. There will be no make-ups except in extreme circumstances.
- Essays must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. If I am absent on that day, the essay must be turned in by 3PM, or it will not be accepted. There will be no late work accepted except in extreme circumstances, and I am expected to inform the teacher as soon as possible if such circumstances occur.
- There will be no make-up work.
- If my grade falls below 70% in the Fall semester, I may not continue in AP English in the Spring.
- I understand that simply taking the AP English exam is worth 10% of my Spring semester grade. If I choose not to take it, I know it will severely impact my grade.
- I will read the texts and view the recommended films before the scheduled lecture date.
- I will bring a copy of the text to class when we are scheduled to discuss it.
- I will subscribe to and participate in the AP blog discussions.
- For all writing assignments or exams that are turned in for credit, I will use dark pens and write legibly or type. The only exception to the no-pencils rule is on the scantron tests.
- I will not ever whine, beg, or bargain for my grade, I will earn it by fulfilling the requirements of the class. These requirements have been clearly spelled out for me before the fifth week of the school year, and I freely choose to take on the challenge of AP English knowing exactly what I am expected to do.

STUDENT SIGNATURE (DATE)

- I pledge to support my student in this class.

PARENT SIGNATURE(s) (DATE)