



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHARTING THE COURSE

Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Grade 12

(LA1196)

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is a college level course in composition and literary analysis. The course involves intensive study of numerous authors, genres, and historical periods.

The course has five units that are organized by genre: poetry, short fiction, drama, the essay, and the novel. The unit on poetry involves students in analyzing poetic techniques such as imagery, figurative language, tone, musical devices, meter, and form. By the end of the unit, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of how these elements combine to create and enhance the meaning of a poem. The unit on short fiction contains works that range from the medieval to the modern, and students analyze through discussion and writing the characteristics of the short story and the techniques used by the authors. In the drama unit, students identify elements unique to drama such as theme, characterization, dramatic structure, staging, and production. In the essay and nonfiction unit, students examine the diction, syntax, tone, imagery, and organization used by authors. During this unit, class sessions and assignments will be focused on analyzing a variety of structures, themes, styles, and philosophies. The works contained in the unit on the novel are drawn from various periods from the sixteenth century to the present. The focus in this unit is on the writer's craft, and students analyze the techniques the authors have used to develop character, plot, and theme.

The pace of this course is very rapid: summer reading is required, and research in college libraries is sometimes necessary. At least one in-class timed essay is assigned weekly, with many additional in-depth analyses required as homework. By the completion of this course, the students should develop critical standards for the independent analysis of any literary work; be able to use language effectively; and organize ideas in a clear, coherent, and persuasive manner. All pieces of a student's writing are stored in a Works in Progress folder from which each student selects pieces of writing for his or her writing portfolio. The contents of the portfolio illustrate how each student has grown and improved as a writer throughout the year.

PREREQUISITE

Enrollment for this course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input.

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense, Ninth Edition

The Little, Brown Handbook, Ninth Edition

READING SELECTION

In Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, students are engaged in the careful reading of literary works. They should study several representative works from various genres and periods. These works should be of recognized literary merit and be worthy of scrutiny because of their richness of thought and language. The choice of works may be drawn from the following list provided by the College Board.

100 Years of Solitude, Marquez
The Americans, James
The Awakening, Chopin
The Bluest Eye, Morrison
The Bostonians, James
The Bride Price, Emecheta
The Brothers Karamazov, Dostoyevsky
A Doll's House, Ibsen
Dubliners, Joyce
Far From the Madding Crowd, Hardy
A Farewell to Arms, Hemingway
For Whom the Bell Tolls, Hemingway
Go Tell it on the Mountain, Baldwin
God's Bits of Wood, Ousmane
Great Expectations, Dickens
Hamlet, Shakespeare
Heart of Darkness, Conrad
Hedda Gabler, Ibsen
The House of Mirth, Wharton
The Importance of Being Earnest, Wilde
Invisible Man, Ellison
Jane Eyre, Brontë, C.
Joseph Andrews, Fielding
King Lear, Shakespeare
Madame Bovary, Flaubert
Major Barbara, Shaw
Martha Quest, Lessing
The Mayor of Casterbridge, Hardy
Middlemarch, Eliot
The Mill on the Floss, Eliot
Murder in the Cathedral, Eliot, T. S.
The Natural, Malamud
Oliver Twist, Dickens
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Kesey

The Canterbury Tales, Chaucer
Catch 22, Heller
The Cherry Orchard, Chekhov
Cloudsplitter, Banks
Crime and Punishment, Dostoyevsky
Darkness at Noon, Koestler
David Copperfield, Dickens
Othello, Shakespeare
Pamela, Richardson
The Plague, Camus
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Joyce
Pride and Prejudice, Austen
Reading Lolita in Tehran, Nafisi
Robinson Crusoe, Defoe
A Room of One's Own, Woolf
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Stoppard
Ship of Fools, Porter
Sons and Lovers, Lawrence
The Sound and the Fury, Faulkner
The Stranger, Camus
The Tempest, Shakespeare
Tess of the d'Urbervilles, Hardy
Their Eyes Were Watching God, Hurston
Things Fall Apart, Achebe
The Three Sisters, Chekhov
To the Lighthouse, Woolf
Tom Jones, Fielding
Twelfth Night, Shakespeare
The Vicar of Wakefield, Goldsmith
Waiting for Godot, Beckett
The Wapshot Scandal, Cheever
Wide Sargasso Sea, Rhys
Wuthering Heights, Brontë, E.

MAJOR LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- AP 1 The student will interpret a variety of imaginative literature through discussion and oral presentations.
- AP 2 The student will analyze through class study, discussion, and writing how a poet's techniques convey meaning, purpose, and effect.
- AP 3 The student will analyze through class study, discussion, and writing the characteristics and techniques used by authors of short fiction.
- AP 4 The student will analyze through class study, discussion, and writing the characteristics and techniques used by playwrights.
- AP 5 The student will analyze through class study, discussion, and writing the characteristics and techniques used by novelists.

Dr. Aaron C. Spence, Superintendent
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For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

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