



January 3, 2012

Dear Parents and Students,

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is a rigorous college-level course for highly motivated students in the 12th grade and emphasizes critical reading, analytical writing, and shared inquiry discussion. Of primary importance is critically reading various genres of literature, understanding how meaning is created through a variety of language strategies, and writing clear, coherent analyses of literary texts. This course requires a commitment from the parent, student, and teacher in order to meet the goals and objectives outlined by the College Board; therefore, students are expected to be thoroughly prepared each day and to satisfactorily complete any assignment within the given time frame. I am positive that all students in this class will achieve the optimal learning experience and pass the AP Literature exam on May 6 if they put forth the maximum effort. Please visit the College Board's Website (www.collegeboard.com) to learn more about AP Literature and to familiarize yourself with the other AP Programs offered at Dorman High School.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact me by email through the web-based program **PowerSchool**, which can be accessed by visiting the Dorman High website at www.dormanhigh.org. Any parent can sign up for this program with a photo ID through the guidance office. At this site, parents can view student grades, attendance, course history, and discipline records. Parents and students may also reach me through e-mail (CastonKG@spart6.org) or by phone (**582-4347**).

EXPECTATIONS

- ◆ Students should be familiar with and observe the various rules and policies in the student handbook regarding absenteeism, tardiness, discipline, cheating, food and drink.
- ◆ Students should schedule their time carefully to help them meet the demands of the course. All work should reflect careful thought and should be completed neatly or it will not be graded. You should take pride in your work.
- ◆ Students should be in seats ready to begin work when the tardy bell rings. **Please see the tardy policy on page 20 in the student handbook.**
- ◆ Students should bring proper materials (notebook, textbook, homework, pencil, etc.) to class every day.
- ◆ Students are responsible for work missed from absences or school-related activities. The student handbook details the rules for make-up privileges. Students who are absent the day a paper is due or a test is given should have the paper ready to turn in or be prepared to take the test the day they return to school. **All missed assignments must be completed and submitted within five days of an absence. Check the green crate for AP Literature at the back of the room for missed work, handouts, etc.**
- ◆ Homework that is checked at the beginning of class will not accepted late.
- ◆ Grades on essays, projects, and other major assignments will be **TEN** points for each day late.
- ◆ **Students are responsible for ensuring that they have a working printer ahead of time for typed assignments.** Malfunctioning printers do not excuse late work. Check ahead of time to make sure your printer works properly. Otherwise, you may hand-write assignments or print documents via a USB flash drive in the Media Center. Papers not turned in on time because of printing errors are still considered late. Assignments should not be submitted electronically.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Three ring binder (2-3 inches) with 5 dividers for Novels, Drama, Poetry and Short Fiction, Exam Prompts and other Writing, and Multiple Choice/Scoring.
- Loose leaf paper
- Pens (blue or black) and pencils
- Highlighters and post-it note flags to annotate texts as you read

TEXTS TO PURCHASE

- ✓ *Cold Mountain*—Charles Frazier (summer reading)
- ✓ *The Kite Runner*—Khaled Hosseini (summer reading)
- ✓ *A Streetcar Named Desire*—Tennessee Williams (summer reading)
- ✓ *Hamlet*—William Shakespeare (Folger Shakespeare Library paperback)
- ✓ **Independent Reading Novel and Play (TBA)**

TEXTS PROVIDED (may be an incomplete list)

- ✓ *Perrine's Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense* –Thomas R. Arp and Greg Johnson, eds.
- ✓ *Metamorphosis*—Franz Kafka

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to...

- ❖ **Carefully read, analyze, and interpret** imaginative literature, considering a works' structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, tone, etc.
- ❖ **Understand** how writers use language to provide meaning and pleasure.
- ❖ **Apply** effective strategies and techniques in their own writing.
- ❖ **Create and sustain** analytical arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience and creative writing pieces that will sharpen their understanding of and deepen their appreciation of literary artistry.
- ❖ **Demonstrate understanding and mastery** of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writings.
- ❖ **Produce** expository, analytical, and argumentative compositions that introduce a complex central idea and develop it with appropriate, specific evidence, cogent explanations, and clear transitions.
- ❖ **Move effectively** through the stages of the writing process, with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing and review.

AP EXPECTATIONS:

Since AP Literature and Composition is a college-level course, expectations are high and non-negotiable. If you are willing to work hard, follow instructions, accept criticism and get involved in classroom discussion and activities, mastery of this material should be manageable.

Writing: All out-of-class major writing assignments must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font and be double-spaced. In-class writing and mini essays will be handwritten on lined prompt paper that will be provided. Students should only turn in work that is their own. Any work found to be authored by anyone other than the student herself or himself will result in a grade of "0" for that assignment with **no chance of revision**.

Reading: Students are expected to keep up with daily reading assignments. There will be frequent quizzes on outside reading. Students are expected to read all material carefully and should NOT rely on Cliff's Notes or Sparks Notes in place of reading the assigned texts.

Class Participation: Students who are actively involved in class sharpen skills and help to facilitate the learning process of everyone in the class. Students are expected to participate in all activities and to become involved in class discussions and seminars.

AP Examination: The culmination of this AP course is the Advanced Placement Examination, given nationally each year in May. This year's AP Literature exam will be held on **May 5**. All students are expected to take this exam which is paid for by the State Department of Education. By scoring a 3 or higher, students may gain college credit. In order to accomplish this goal, students must build skills by reading and completing assignments carefully and conscientiously. Students must also become familiar with the format of the AP exam itself. Therefore, there will be timed essays and multiple choice drills throughout the semester which should facilitate scoring well on the examination. **There will also be several AP review sessions to be scheduled in the spring which you should plan to attend.**

Evaluation and Grades:

The most important aspects of this course are reading, writing, critical thinking, and discussion. Grades for each term will be determined as indicated below. Instead of an exam, students will submit a portfolio of specified work.

40% Compositions—including timed, in-class essays as well as multi-draft compositions that have been revised after evaluations by peers and/or the teacher. The writing is evaluated with the use of analytical rubrics to help students develop effective and varied diction, syntax, organization, a balance of generalization and detail, and effective voice and tone.

25% Classwork/Homework—including journal entries, daily assignments, quizzes, orals, multiple choice practice, etc. The journal entries will range widely from highly focused analyses of literary devices and structures to "freewriting" in a variety of forms for a variety of purposes.

20% Reading Tests/Quizzes—Texts for these tests come from a variety of nonfiction in diverse styles and genres. The questions are designed to evaluate students' ability to recognize literary techniques and devices and to interpret meanings, purposes, attitudes, characterizations, etc.

15% Participation—Active, thoughtful participation is crucial for both individual and group inquiry. Socratic seminars will be held regularly, allowing students to lead their own discussions and engage in meaningful discourse.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Weeks 1-4: Summer Reading Assessments and Analysis

- œ *Cold Mountain*
- œ *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- œ *The Kite Runner*

INDEPENDENT READING NOVEL ASSIGNMENT DUE _____

Weeks 5-8: Poetry Part I

- œ **Sonnets:** Shakespearean, Spenserian, Petrarchan, Modern, etc.
- œ **Metaphysical Poetry:** Donne, Marvell, Herbert, et al.

POETRY EXPLICATION PAPER—due _____

Week 9: *Oedipus Rex* Sophocles

Weeks 9-11: *Hamlet* (Have Folger edition purchased before now.)

Week 12: *Metamorphosis* Franz Kafka

Weeks 12-13: Shorter Fiction

- œ “Good Country People” and “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor
- œ “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson
- œ “A Rose for Emily” by William Faulkner
- œ “Young Goodman Brown” and “The Minister’s Black Veil” by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- œ “The Dead” by James Joyce

Weeks 14-15: Poetry Part II

- œ **Romantic Poetry:** Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, Byron, Blake, et al.
- œ **Victorian Poetry:** Arnold, Tennyson, Browning, Hopkins, Hardy, et al.
- œ **Modern Poetry:** Various authors

Week 16: REVIEW

May 5: AP LITERATURE EXAM

INDEPENDENT READING DRAMA ASSIGNMENT DUE _____

May 18: SENIOR PORTFOLIO DUE

AP Literature and Composition Course Agreement

AP courses are taught using college level materials and strategies that will prepare students to take the College Board Advanced Placement Examination. AP Literature and Composition is no exception. Students, parents and teachers all need to be in agreement regarding what it takes to best prepare students for college and the AP examination. Please read the following statements and sign where indicated, showing that you agree to the responsibilities listed. Please contact me personally if you have any questions or concerns regarding these responsibilities.

Student

You have chosen to enroll in this AP course. By enrolling, you have agreed to:

- Invest the time and energy necessary to be successful.
- Organize your time.
- Take responsibility for all work, whether you are present in class or not.
- Participate in class in an active and productive manner.
- Do your own work.
- Follow the rules, guidelines and procedures outlined in the course description handout.
- Communicate with Ms. Caston regularly regarding problems and concerns throughout the semester.
- Make your best effort to attend review sessions in the spring.

Student signature _____ Class period _____

Parent/Guardian

Your son or daughter was responsible for acquiring your permission before enrolling in this course. By allowing your son or daughter to enroll, you have agreed to:

- Be familiar with the information in the course outline given to your son/daughter on the first day of class.
- Notify Ms. Caston by e-mail or telephone when you have questions or concerns.
- Help and encourage your son or daughter whenever possible.
- Strongly encourage your son or daughter to attend review sessions in the spring.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Parent e-mail address: _____

Teacher

I agree to teach AP Literature and Composition at a college level and pace. I will respond to parent communication in a timely manner. Up-to-date student progress reports will be sent home mid-quarter, but I will also contact parents of students who are struggling to support those who need additional help. I agree to provide tutoring as needed, and to provide several review sessions in the spring before the exam.

Teacher signature: _____