

To: Channelview High School AP English III Students
Date: May, 2007
Re: Course Description and Summer Reading Assignment
Contact information: CHS website @channelview.isd.esc4.net
OR CHS counseling center @281-452-1450, ext. 7353

Advanced Placement English III Course Content

An Advanced Placement course consists of introductory college level work for willing and capable high school students. The junior level AP class is designed to prepare the student for the AP Language and Composition exam given in May. The exam will be offered at the end of the junior year and can be taken again for another fee at the end of the senior year. The specific skills required to pass the national exam include literary analysis of selected prose, analytical writing, and application of analytical skills to major novels, plays and other literary works.

Students are not required to take the AP exam in May. Students will receive high school credit for the class whether or not they take or receive college credit based on the AP exam. The grades for the AP exams are reported directly to the student and to universities in July. In the AP English III class, students will work on the specific skills needed for the exam. All students will be expected to study and work as if they do intend to take the national exam given by College Board.

NOTE: The fee for **each** AP exam is approximately \$80. Students should be prepared to pay for **each AP** exam when they sign up in March before the exam date(s) in early May. A reduced fee is available for students who qualify.

This class is not closed to any student as CHS has open enrollment. Students must, however, be willing to work hard, complete assignments, and keep up with the demands of the class. Whether the student “places out” on the AP exam or not, the College Board research shows that students who successfully complete AP classes have increased scores on other exams for college-bound students, such as the Texas Success Initiative instruments, including THEA (formerly TASP); SAT I and II or ACT. The main purpose of the course, however, is to help the student score well on the AP exam and to be prepared for college English classes.

Ninety-nine percent of all universities and colleges in the United States award course credit for AP grades of 3, 4, or 5 on a 5 point grading scale. Advanced Placement is now recognized internationally. In England, for example, students with three AP scores of 3 or higher are accepted automatically by Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Each student is responsible for determining what credit is granted by the college he or she plans to attend.

The Junior AP English course includes the following :

1. Style analysis- careful student of the elements of style such as tone, attitude, diction, imagery, detail, language, syntax, organization, structure, irony, figurative language, figures of speech, narrative devices, and narrative pace.

2. Prose and poetry interpretation – taught through close reading of various works and passages from released AP Multiple Choice and Free Response exams.
3. Research – documented style analysis of a novel or play from the instructor’s list.
4. AP exam – practice taking both multiple choice and essay exams. I suggest that students look at their reading background carefully. Students should try to read works from several different time periods and read authors from different cultures to broaden their reading experiences. If at all possible, students should purchase the novel or play they are studying. *Students who highlight, underline and otherwise annotate their works find it easier to write about the work at a later time.*

Some of the reading selections contain material that may be objectionable to some students or their families. Students should select works that will be acceptable in their homes. Since this course is taught at the college level, the reading selections are also college level in difficulty and content.

Reading material **during the school year** will include the following titles:

<u>The Scarlet Letter</u>	Nathaniel Hawthorne	<u>Death of a Salesman</u>	Arthur Miller
<u>Lord of the Flies</u>	William Golding	<u>The Crucible</u>	Arthur Miller
<u>The Great Gatsby</u>	F. Scott Fitzgerald	<u>The Glass Menagerie</u>	T. Williams

To be read during the summer: **Spoon River Anthology** Edgar Lee Masters
Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

****Students will have an activity on Spoon River Anthology, Fahrenheit 451 and Frankenstein the first weeks of school.**

Please purchase copies of the titles so that you may highlight and annotate the selections. Look at the half-price books stores before you buy a new copy. If you wish, you may keep a reading log on each selection, as you learned to do in Pre AP English .

***In addition, please prepare a Major Works card for each title, using the format on the attached sheet. If you have questions, see me before the end of the school year.
I am in Room 130.***

Directions for Major Works card: (see attached format for sides one and two)

Use one 5”x 8” lined index card per selection.

Begin side one on the lined side of the card.

Write legibly.

Write the required information at the appropriate place on the card. You do not have to write the labels, i.e., title. Just write Spoon River Anthology.

