

To: Senior Level Advanced Placement Students
From:
Date: May 15, 2007

Advanced Placement English IV Course Content

An Advanced Placement course consists of introductory college level work for willing and able high school students. The senior level AP class for this year is designed to prepare the student for the AP Literature and Composition exam given in May. The Literature test determines the level of student achievement compared with sophomores in college English classes. The specific skills required to pass national exams include literary analysis of selected prose and poetry, 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, although I hope they will. Students will receive high school credit for the class whether or not they take and/or pass the AP exam. The grades for the AP exams are reported directly to the student and to the universities in July. In AP English 4, we will work on specific skills needed on 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 exam when they sign up in March before the exam dates(s) in early May. A reduced fee is available for students who qualify.

The class is not closed to any student. We have 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" of the AP exam or not, the College Board research shows that student scores increase on nationally accepted exams (SAT, CLEPT, ACT). The main purpose of the course, however, is to help the student score well on the AP exam(s) and to be prepared for college English courses.

The Senior AP English course includes

1. Style analysis - careful study of the elements of style: tone, attitude, diction, Language, figurative language, figures of speech, detail, imagery, phrasing, organization, syntax, irony, sentence structure, structure, narrative devices and narrative pace.
2. Prose and poetry interpretation - taught through close reading of works in British Literature anthology and passages from AP Free Response and Multiple Choice exams.
3. Research - documented style analysis of the student - selected AP novel or play from the attached summer reading list.
4. AP exams - practice taking both multiple choice and essay questions.

I suggest that you look at your reading background carefully. Try to read works from several different time periods and read authors from different cultures to broaden your reading experiences. I will help you make these decisions, if you wish. If you can, purchase the novel or play you are studying and build your own library. It also helps to

highlight, underline or otherwise annotate these works. This is more easily done if the copy is yours.

The summer reading assignments are NECESSARY. We will study/present/write about all three during the first six weeks. If you do not read these, you will be very much behind when school begins. You will not have class time to read. I will handle the class as if these works have been read. Some of the reading selections contain material that may be objectionable to you or your family. You know your family's opinion about selection of reading materials. I will help you select works that will be acceptable in your home. Feel free to stop by and discuss with me any problems/concerns you may have. Since this course is taught at the college level, the reading selections are also college level in difficulty and content.

I look forward to seeing you before school is out if you wish to check out a book. If I don't see you before school is out, then have a great summer and read those plays/novels. I will look forward to seeing you in August.

You may keep a reading log on each selection, as you learned in Pre AP English. In addition, please prepare a Major Works card for each title, using the format on the attached sheet.

Directions for a 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 required information at the appropriate place on the card. You do not have to write the labels, ie, title. Just write Jane Eyre

Summer Reading List
Grade 12

Read the first two for summer reading.

<u>Oedipus Rex</u> (also seen as <u>Oedipus the King</u>)	Sophocles
[Oedipus trilogy is found as under the name of author]	
<u>Jane Eyre</u>	Charlotte Bronte

Oedipus is a tragic drama; Jane Eyre is a fictional novel. The best way to read and study these is to use post-it notes for ideas and concepts and questions you may have concerning the play.

Students will choose one selection from the list below for independent study and research. This work definitely needs to be read during the summer. Research will begin in September and the novel/play must be read before then !!!!

<u>Pride and Prejudice</u>	Austen
<u>Song of Solomon</u>	Morrison
<u>Crime and Punishment</u>	Dostoevsky
<u>Beloved</u>	Morrison
<u>Bless Me, Ultima</u>	Anaya
<u>All the King's Men</u> (the novel)	Warren
<u>Brave New World</u>	Huxley
<u>Invisible Man</u>	Ellison
<u>The Once and Future King</u>	White
<u>The Sound and the Fury</u>	Faulkner
<u>A Tale of Two Cities</u>	Dickens
<u>East of Eden</u>	Steinbeck
<u>Othello</u>	Shakespeare
<u>The Tempest</u>	Shakespeare
<u>A Doll's House</u>	Ibsen
<u>Far from the Madding Crowd</u>	Hardy
<u>The Picture of Dorian Gray</u>	Wilde
<u>Antigone</u> (read <u>Oedipus</u> first)	Sophocles
<u>The Color Purple</u>	Walker
<u>Wuthering Heights</u>	Bronte