

## AP English Literature

Mr. Kevin Kasenow

Advanced Placement English is designed to prepare students to take the A.P. examination in Literature and Composition in May, fulfilling the requirements found in the *AP English Course Description*. It is, therefore, vital that students acquire a variety of literary experiences and composition and thinking skills before taking the exam. Emphasis in the course is placed on students' analytical and writing skills. You will be expected to write, evaluate, and rewrite impromptu critical essays, to intensively analyze authors' use of literary devices in poetry and prose, and to participate in daily intellectual skirmishes both individually and in groups. You will analyze and evaluate your essays and those of other students and professional writers. You will periodically meet with me to examine your essays' strengths and weaknesses. The 35 or so expository and argumentative essays you will write (and rewrite) this year will account for approximately 60% of the grades in the class, with the rest divided between reading quizzes, AP multiple choice practice, and other quizzes and assignments.

All efforts are directed toward the students' ability to achieve on the exam with confidence and skill. Many of the class assignments will involve working previous A.P. exams (objective and written) in preparation.

The curriculum is divided into six major units and six intersessions (see attached list).

The textbook for the course is:

Kennedy, X.J. & Gioia, Dana, Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.  
New York: Harper Collins, 2004.

Students will be expected to obtain copies of a number of paperback books (marked by an asterisk), but many plays and poems will be provided by your beloved school.

### **Preunit: Introduction to the elements of literature and literary analysis: poetry and prose (2 weeks)**

#### **Unit 1: Tragedy (5 weeks)**

intro. to Greek mythology

\*Shakespeare, Macbeth

Sophocles, Oedipus Rex (lit textbook)

intersession: short story (1 week)

#### **Unit 2: Characterization (4 weeks)**

\*Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

Shaffer, Equus (handout)

intersession: lyric poetry (1 week)

#### **Unit 3: Conflict (2 weeks)**

Sophocles, Antigone (lit textbook)

Ibsen, A Doll House (lit textbook)

intersession: short story (1 week)

#### **Unit 4: Irony and Satire (3 weeks)**

Swift, "A Modest Proposal" (handout)

Voltaire, Candide (handout)

Thurber fables and various satirical texts

intersession: lyric and dramatic poetry (1 week)

#### **Unit 5: Setting and Theme (5 weeks)**

Romantic poetry: Blake, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Byron, P. Shelley, Keats

\*Shelley, Frankenstein

intersession: Carpe Diem and Metaphysical poetry (1 week)

#### **Unit 6: Point of View and Symbolism (4 weeks)**

Chopin, The Awakening (handout)

\*Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

intersession: Sonnets and other poetic forms (1 week)

**Postunit: three intensive weeks of A.P. prep before the A.P. exam**