



AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

MURRAY HIGH OPEN DISCLOSURE 2020-2021

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“The novels we read allow us to encounter possible persons, visions of ourselves that we would never see, never permit ourselves to become, in places we can never go and might not care to, while assuring that we get to return home again.” –Thomas C. Foster, *How to Read Novels Like a Professor*

“What matters most are the opportunities we can give students to make sense of any text and to see the immediate relevance of those texts to the urgent conversations of now.” –Tricia Ebarvia

Course Expectations

AP English is an opportunity and responsibility. This will be a year of rigorous, in-depth study of English literature. The design and structure of this course follows the requirements and guidelines established by the College Board as identified in the current [AP English Course Description](#). This course will prepare you for intermediate and advanced college courses in English by making demands equivalent to those of a yearlong introductory college literature and writing course. The class is also designed to ready you for the AP English Language and Composition exam to be administered in May.

Students will be reading a great deal of classic, sophisticated world literature from the sixteenth century to contemporary times. Novels, plays, short stories, and poems will be studied as well. The course will concentrate on the experience of literature, the interpretation of literature, and writing to develop stylistic maturity.

This course is designed and taught thematically with emphasis on archetypal core readings with modern and classical selections that illuminate and expand upon the themes.

Writing will consist of in-class work, short papers, prose mini-analyses, as well as informal practice.

Our goal is to produce critically thinking students who can thoughtfully and skillfully articulate knowledge and understanding in writing. We will also use literature as a means to examine ourselves and the art of the written word to create passionate, informed students and citizens.

Units of Study

These are going to vary greatly, but will include daily writing, literature analysis, research, analyzing style, class discussion, and lecture. Most of the course will run through Canvas. There will be assessments meant to imitate assessments from the A. P. Literature exam.

- [Short Fiction I](#)

You'll learn critical reading skills to help you critically read, interpret, and analyze prose.

- [Poetry I](#)

You'll continue your critical reading exploration in poetry and learn to analyze similar elements within a wide variety of poems.

- [Longer Fiction or Drama I](#)

You'll observe how the literary techniques you've explored in prior units unfold over the course of longer works and analyze how characters develop and interact over the course of a narrative.

- [Short Fiction II](#)

You'll delve deeper into the roles of character and conflict in fiction and explore how a narrator's perspective can color storytelling.

- [Poetry II](#)

You'll study different forms of poetry and examine how structure and figurative language can create and impact meaning.

- [Longer Fiction or Drama II](#)

You'll analyze how various literary techniques play out and shift over the course of longer works, charting how characters change (or don't) as they're affected by developments in the plot.

- [Short Fiction III](#)

You'll examine how works of fiction interact with and comment on the world around them and the society their authors live or lived in.

- [Poetry III](#)

You'll develop your interpretation of poetry further by examining how contrasts, ambiguous language, and various other techniques can add layers of meaning to a poetic work.

- [Longer Fiction or Drama III](#)

You'll consider longer narratives in the context of the various techniques and interpretations you've learned in prior units and build a nuanced analysis of each complex work as a whole.



POTENTIAL TEXTS

(Please wait to purchase until our class determines what we are reading. Students will know at least 3 weeks in advance.)

Possibilities:

Frankenstein, The Kite Runner, Their Eyes Were Watching God, Hamlet, 1984, Brave New World, The Stranger, A Doll's House, Kindred, The Poisonwood Bible, Sense and Sensibility, The Awakening

Many short stories, prose passages, and poetry.

Students are encouraged to buy their own books, but this is NOT required. You will be required to annotate and or take notes on the books assigned in the course. If you borrow from another previous/current Honors English 11 student with previously annotated material, you must speak with me beforehand.

GRADING

Students and parents will have computer access to grades on Aspire through the district web page. Please keep all returned work in case there is any discrepancy between Ms. LaFortune's records and yours.

Though most assignments will be completed on Canvas, the grade posted to Aspire is your actual class in the grade.

Certain essays, practice tests, and final assessments will be weighted to reflect competency and align with the AP Exam.

Murray Grading Policy:

The Grade Scale is in accordance with Murray School District policy.

GENERAL CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

1. **ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION! It matters! Your presence matters**—no matter if we are online, or hybrid, or in class. We will have to be flexible and give each other grace, but having your interaction whether it is in person or online makes a difference.

There will be online access to assignments and a daily agenda students can check when not at school. **CHECK CANVAS!** Your daily agenda with assignments will be posted daily.

Late Work

Some late work may be docked depending on the assignment. If any concerns arise concerning this policy, please speak with me *beforehand* and we can discuss an alternatives.

2. **TREAT OTHERS RESPECTFULLY:**

Our class expectation is to be respectful, kind, and inclusive to everyone.

3. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Cheating and Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. Any student who participates in cheating will receive a zero on that assignment and a U in citizenship. Cheating is also using peers' answers. Six words in a row from any source is plagiarism! *Any student who participates in cheating a second time in the same class will receive an "F" for that term.* Which means, honesty with me and your classmates, as well as yourself, is paramount. It also means, among other things, taking credit only for your own

work. Instead of trying to get by with **only** SparkNotes (or similar summaries), give yourself a full experience by reading the assigned text.

4. CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are to be stored **AWAY** (off body, not on desks). There will be times we use phones in class for education, but you will be invited to take them out. Phones will be taken for the day if on a desk or on a body (lab, pocket, etc.) at inappropriate times. Headphones and earbuds are not allowed while direct instruction is occurring, but may be used depending on the situation or activity. If technology is misused, cell phones and other electronic devices that are used during class will be confiscated and given to an administrator.

5. EXTRA LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Redoing practice assignments, writing analyses, practice multiple choice and or prose essays will be reviewed as needed.

CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA:

Your citizenship grade may be determined by your behavior in class, attendance or truancy.

Grading: Satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U). Any U must be remediated prior to graduation.

If there is a perceived error, any grade change must be completed within the following quarter or by June 30 for the fourth quarter.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act: *Ongoing critical evaluation by peers which may include the exchanging of student work, will be used to enhance the educational process. Ultimately the final assessment is the job of the teacher. Student privacy will be respected when providing class grades and other confidential information.*