**AP Literature Course Syllabus**

Meghan Shields Room 1616 mshields3@wcpss.net shieldshshs@weebly.com

**Course Description:**

“An AP English Literature and Composition course engages in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students should deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure to their readers. As students read, they should consider a work’s structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.”

~College Board

**Book List:**

Below is a tentative list of the works we will be covering over the course of the school year. Many students opt to purchase the texts so they can annotate and more easily refer back to them, but this is in no way required. All required texts will be provided for students.

# In previous years, students have found *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* (revised edition) to be­­ an extremely helpful resource in analyzing literature; however, we do not have copies of the book at the school. We will be covering the material through lecture, but it would be highly beneficial for students to read the full text on their own.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Author** | **ISBN** |
| **Novels** | | |
| *1984* | George Orwell | 0-8810-3036-8 |
| *As I lay Dying* | William Faulkner |  |
| *Bless Me, Ultima* | Rudolfo Anaya | 0-7857-4227-1 |
| *Brave New World* | Aldous Huxley | 1417761032 |
| *Great Expectations* | Charles Dickens | 0-613-07900-0 |
| *Grendel* | John Gardner | 0-8085-6648-2 |
| *Heart of Darkness* | Joseph Conrad | 978-141782584-4 |
| *Invisible Man* | Ralph Ellison |  |
| *Jane Eyre* | Charlotte Bronte | 978-141782419-9 |
| *Lord of the Flies* | William Golding | 0881030317 |
| *Pride and Prejudice* | Jane Austen | 978-141781421-3 |
| *The Sound and the Fury* | William Faulkner |  |
| *Wuthering Heights* | Emily Bronte | 1-4177-3920-7 |
| *Frankenstein* | Mary Shelley | 0-8085-1955-7 |
| *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* | Robert Louis Stevenson | 1-4176-4712-4 |
| ***Poetry*** | | |
| *Beowulf* (epic) | Anonymous | 978-141782421-2 |
| *The Canterbury Tales* | Geoffrey Chaucer | 978-141782581-3 |
| *The Inferno* (epic) | Dante |  |
| ***Plays*** | | |
| *An Enemy of the People* | Henrik Ibsen | 978-141782585-1 |
| *Death of a Salesman* | Arthur Miller | 0-88103-017-1 |
| *Hamlet* | Shakespeare |  |
| *King Lear* | Shakespeare | 0-14-071490-1 |
| *Macbeth* | Shakespeare | In textbook |
| *Othello* | Shakespeare | 1-4176-6484-3 |
| *Our Town* | Thornton Wilder | 1-417-63054-X |
| *A Streetcar Named Desire* | Tennessee Williams | 0-8085-0905-5 |
| *Waiting for Godot* | Samuel Beckett | 0808509128 |
| **Textbooks** | | |
| *Elements of Literature*, 6th edition | Marie Price |  |
| *The Norton Reader: An Anthology of Nonfiction* | Linda Peterson |  |
| *Perrine’s Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense* | Thomas R. Arp and Greg Johnson |  |
| *Essential Literary Terms* | Sharon Hamilton |  |

**\*Note: The ISBN numbers are listed solely for your benefit. If you opt to purchase any of these works, you are welcome to choose other editions, especially if you prefer paperback.**

**Resources:**

College Board AP Central. AP English Literature and Composition Course Description. 2006. 13

July 2006. <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com />.

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: Modern

Language Association of America, 2004.

Hacker, Diana. A Writer’s Reference. 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2007.

Sebranek, Patrick, et al. Writers Inc: Student Handbook for Writing and Learning. Wilmington,

MA: WRITE SOURCE-Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

**Supplemental Texts** *may* include any of the following:

*The Awakening*, Kate Chopin

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Mark Haddon

*East of Eden*, John Steinbeck

*Equus*, Peter Schaffer

*Fences*, August Wilson

*The Handmaid’s Tale*, Margaret Atwood

*The Illiad*, Homer

*The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde

*Jude the Obscure*, Thomas Hardy

*Les Miserables*, Victor Hugo

*No Exit*, Jean-Paul Sarte

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, Dale Wasserman

*The Road*, Cormac McCarthy

*A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens

*The Turn of the Screw*, Henry James

In addition, texts covered will include a selection of short stories (tentative: John Collier - “The Chaser”; Kate Chopin - "Story of an Hour"; Ernest Hemingway - "Hills Like White Elephants"; Joyce Carol Oates - "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"; Alice Walker - "Everyday Use"; Zora Neale Hurston - "Sweat"; John Updike - "A&P"; Charlotte Perkins Gilman - "The Yellow Wallpaper"; Eudora Welty - "Livvie"), fairy tales, myths, biblical stories, and poetry spanning several time periods. Selections for these will vary daily. The expectation is that major novels will be read outside of class and that plays and epics will be read in class. Copies of texts can be purchased or borrowed from most libraries. Select titles can be borrowed from the HSHS Media Center or English Department. A month’s notice will be given before each title is required.

This course is the equivalent to a sophomore-level college literature course. Quality literature delves deeply into the human condition. Exploring the human condition can lead to discussions that require a high level of maturity. These readings and resulting conversations are crucial to the development of any college bound student. **As such, the texts in this class can contain material of a sensitive and mature nature. Please contact me if you have a concern regarding any of the texts we cover this year.**

**Course Format:** In addition to working daily with poetry, class periods will generally follow the following format:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mondays**—Exploring Greek Myths | **Tuesdays**—Socratic Seminar, Inner Circle #1 | **Wednesdays**—Writing and Nonfiction, | **Thursdays**—Socratic Seminar, Inner Circle #2 | **Fridays**—Fairy Tales/Biblical Stories |

Socratic seminars will require pre-reading and annotation of novels, discussion, and reflection skills. Myths, fairy tales and Bible stories will be used to increase understanding of cultural allusions in literature. All work will result in formal and informal writing.

**YOU WILL WRITE AND READ EVERY DAY** in this course. By signing the attached agreement, you agree to keep a mature attitude and open mind during class discussion, dedicate a minimum of one hour reading per day, and remain open to constructive criticism to improve writing style and deepen critical thinking skills.

**Attendance: Come to class every day!**  It’s the first step to passing and earning credit.  If you’re absent, you are still responsible for the work you missed, and since the pace of AP classes is fast, absences can cause you to fall behind very quickly.    Of course, illnesses and emergencies are unavoidable, and we will work together to make up work missed on those days.  ***It’s your responsibility to ask, at an appropriate time, for the work you missed AFTER you have checked the class website (***[shieldshshs@weebly.com](mailto:shieldshshs@weebly.com)) ***for this material*.**

**Need Help?** Come to my HOT Lunch Tutorials on Mondays (A) and Thursdays (B) or request to visit me during office hours most week days 2:30-3:30 P.M. You may also request assistance via email (using your WCPSS email address) or through the course wiki page. Don’t wait until it’s too late. Seek my help early!

**Required Materials:** Please bring the following to class daily:

  #2 Pencils and/or pens

 Highlighters

  Notebook paper – neatly stored in a binder

  Textbook/Assigned Reading (if applicable)

 Dialectical Journal

**Homework:**  Homework is an essential and integral part of the learning experience and is assigned frequently. It is understood that you always have English homework, as it is my expectation that you are continuously studying notes and vocabulary and completing reading and writing assignments.

**Turning in Assignments**: All assignments (unless otherwise directed) will be turned into the class period’s inbox in the classroom. All graded work will be distributed from the class period’s outbox. Do not place assignments to be graded anywhere on my desk, under the door, etc. If they are not placed into the inbox by the due date, they are considered late.

***Late work:*** You are expected to adhere to established due dates for all assignments.  In the unlikely event that an assignment is late, it will receive an 8 point deduction for each day it is late for a total of 5 days per HSHS policy. After this 5 day period, the highest possible score for any assignment is a 60. *No late work can be turned in after each nearest upcoming interim*. ***All essays are due on the assigned due date. If you are absent, submit the assignment electronically.***

**Grading:** As always, every student begins the semester with a 100%. Grades will be based on major assignments (essays, projects, seminars, benchmarks, accumulations of ongoing assignments, etc), minor assignments (quizzes, minor responses/essays/projects, journals, etc ), and class work/homework.  You’re expected to complete all assignments, actively participate in class, and take pride in the quality of your assignments.

\*All students will have the opportunity to retest on certain assignments. See teacher for details.

The grading scale is as follows:

90-100%              A

80-89%                B

70-79%                C

60-69%                 D

0-59% or lower     F

The assessment scale is as follows:

Major Grades 50%

Minor Grades 35%

Homework/Classwork 15%

**Academic Integrity:** There are firm expectations of academic integrity at HSHS, and it is essential to your success that you understand and adhere to them***.*** Plagiarism is most definitely cheating.  This first week of school, we’ll discuss what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

***By writing your name on your paper, you affirm with academic integrity that the work is your own original work and not copied or plagiarized knowingly from another.***

**Ms. Shields’s Wish List: Kleenex, Hand Sanitizer, Clorox Wipes, Glue Sticks, Colored Pencils/Markers/Crayons**

**­­**

**We have read and agree to Ms. Shields’s syllabus terms and conditions.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE DATE

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME DATE

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME DATE

Dear Parent or Guardian, English IV

Hello! My name is Meghan Shields, and I will be your child’s AP English teacher this semester. Thank you for reading through this syllabus.

This semester in English, I will work relentlessly to teach and guide your child to become a better reader, writer, and speaker; however, I need every effort from you to help me in this endeavor.

1. Students will have many **at home writing assignments,** ranging from simple paragraph or brainstorming activities to full essays.
2. Students will have a **Unit test and/or essay at the end of every unit**. Unit assessments will test student knowledge and the acquisition of analytical and writings skills learned during the unit.
3. Students will complete group work assignments that may require working together outside of class. It is the students’ responsibility to figure out how they are going to accomplish the assignment.
4. As you know, the students have the opportunity to take the AP test in the spring. In order to prepare, we will be incorporating a great deal of test prep and practice for the exam.
5. Please pay special attention to the late-work policy. If a student is absent the day that a major assignment is due, their assignment must be turned in anyway, via email, the website, google drive, a classmate, or it could be dropped off and put in my mailbox. If it is turned in the next day, when the student returns, it will be considered a day late.

Thank you for your time. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me using my contact information below.

Sincerely,

Meghan Shields

Mshields3@wcpss.net

**Class website: shieldshshs@weebly.com**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Email is the method that I will most likely use to contact you. Please put an email address that you are likely to check.

**Please sign the Academic Integrity Policy and Syllabus Acknowledgment sheet.**

**Please use the bottom of this page to tell me anything I should know about your child.**

(Does he or she have any learning disabilities? Does he or she have any allergies? Please include anything you can think of that will be helpful in helping him/her be successful this semester!)

**Planned Readings for AP Literature for 2014-2015**

*\*The first work listed is to be read outside of class; the second titled listed will be read inside of class.  
 \*Books must be read and ready to discuss by the Tuesday of each week listed.  
 \*This list is subject to change as needed but you must have the books prior to a week’s discussion dates.*

August 24-August 28: Introductory Material, Short Stories  
August 31-September 4: Short Stories  
September 7-September 11: Lord of the Flies, Heart of Darkness   
September 14-September 18: Lord of the Flies, Heart of Darkness  
September 21-September 25: Frankenstein, Beowulf/Grendel  
September 28-October 2: Frankenstein, Beowulf/Grendel  
October 5-October 9: 1984, Enemy of the People  
October 12-October 16: 1984, Enemy of the PeopleOCTOBER 15: QUARTER #1 MAJOR PAPER DUE!

October 19-October 23: 1984/Brave New World, The Prince  
October 26-October 30: 1984/Brave New World, The Prince  
November 2-November 6: Canterbury Tales, Death of a Salesman  
November 9-November 13: Canterbury Tales, Death of a Salesman  
November 16-November 20: Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, Pride & Prejudice; A Streetcar Named Desire  
November 23-November 27: Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, Pride & Prejudice; (no in-class reading due to Thanksgiving holiday)  
November 30-December 4: Bless me Ultima, King Lear  
December 7-December 11: Bless me Ultima, King Lear  
December 14-December 18: Invisible Man, Othello  
December 21-25: Invisible Man (no in-class reading due to Winter Break)  
December 28-January 1: Invisible Man (no in-class reading due to Winter Break)  
January 4-January 8: Invisible Man, Othello  
JANUARY 7: SEMESTER #1 PROJECT/PAPER DUE!  
January 11-January 15: Hamlet, Macbeth  
January 18-January 22: Hamlet, Macbeth  
January 25-January 29**:** As I Lay Dying (no in-class reading, complexity of this novel requires daily discussion)  
February 1-February 5: As I Lay Dying (no in-class reading, complexity of this novel requires daily discussion) **February 8-February 12: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, Equus  
February 15-February 19: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, Othello  
February 22-February 26: A Tale of Two Cities, Othello  
February 29-March 4: A Tale of Two Cities, Othello  
March 7-March 11: A Tale of Two Cities, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest  
March 14-March 18: Wuthering Heights, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest**

**MARCH 17: QUARTER #3 MAJOR PAPER DUE!  
March 21-March 25: Wuthering Heights, (no in-class reading due to Spring Break)   
March 28-April 1: Wuthering Heights, Waiting for Godot  
April 4-April 8: As I Lay Dying (no in-class reading, complexity of this novel requires daily discussion)  
April 11-April 15: As I Lay Dying (no in-class reading, complexity of this novel requires daily discussion)  
April 18-April 22: Dystopian Novel (choose from: 1984, A Brave New World, or The Handmaid’s Tale)  
April 25-April 29: Dystopian Novel (choose from: 1984, A Brave New World, or The Handmaid’s Tale)  
April 28: SEMESTER #2 PROJECT/PAPER DUE!  
May 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27: Work on Senior Portfolio  
MAY 26: SENIOR PORTFOLIOS DUE!**

Brave New World