

**AP Literature and Composition**  
**2016-2017**  
**Ms. McCloud**

Welcome to AP English Literature! This rigorous AP course is designed to engage students in carefully reading and critically analyzing literature. Students should expect course work that is demanding in both quantity and textual difficulty; yet, students who are committed to the demands of a study of literary masterpieces will discover a truly enriching experience. I look forward to the reading, writing, and thinking we will do together this year.

**CURRICULUM:** The class reading focuses on works of recognized literary merit from various genres and periods—novels and plays that invite and reward thorough reading. In addition to regular readings from short works of prose and poetry, the major works students will possibly read include:

*Crime and Punishment* Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*Cry, the Beloved Country* Alan Paton  
*Hamlet* William Shakespeare  
*Heart of Darkness* Joseph Conrad  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* Oscar Wilde  
*Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen  
*Gulliver's Travels* Jonathan Swift  
*Tess of the D'urbervilles* Thomas Hardy  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* Zora Neale Hurston  
*Utopia* by Thomas More  
*The Prince* Machiavelli  
*Paradise Lost* John Milton  
*A Man for all Seasons* Robert Bolt  
*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*  
*Beowulf*

The literature selected for this course requires college-level maturity as well as advanced reading skills. For a valuable, authentic experience, students must commit to reading deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to explore a work's complexity and to absorb its richness in artistry and meaning. Literature study helps (CliffsNotes, SparkNotes, etc.) must be used judiciously, if at all, if students are to gain the reading and analysis skills required for success in the class and on the AP exam.

Alongside reading and discussion, we will work extensively and strategically to improve the insight and style of our writing through in-class and independent essay writing. Students will also broaden their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. This includes the consideration of a work's structure, style, and theme, as well as smaller-scale elements such as figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

**THE AP EXAM:** AP Literature prepares students to take the AP exam in May. The AP exam is a two-part test: in Section I, students answer 55 multiple-choice questions in one hour; in Section II, they respond to three free-response essay questions in two hours. Section I tests students' ability to analytically read prose and poetry. Section II requires students to write critical essays on literary texts.

**CLASS SUPPLIES:** You need a **binder** dedicated to this class to keep all of your handouts, assignments, essays, and practice exams. Also keep plenty of **college-ruled lined paper** in your binder. In addition, you will need to purchase small **sticky notes** to annotate the texts that we read.

### GRADING

- Grades for this class follow a grading scale:

A	94-100%	B	83-86%	C	73%-76%	D	63%-66%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-82%	C-	70%-72%	D-	60%-62%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67%-69%	F	59% and below

- Participation is an integral part of your grade, as the study of literature thrives on discussion. Be willing to contribute insight and listen to your classmates' ideas. There is no way to compensate for poor preparation or a missed discussion or lecture.

**ATTENDANCE:** Be in class and ready to work when the bell rings. Because of the rigorous pace of the class and importance of participation in AP Literature, excessive absences will greatly deter your learning. Make a commitment to prioritize class attendance and active participation. When you leave class for any reason, you must take a tardy.

**RESPECT:** I expect exemplary citizenship and behavior from all students. Commit to displaying courtesy, integrity, and personal responsibility. This includes respecting the teacher and other students with your attention. It also includes responsibly focusing by not using iPods, cell phones, or other electronic devices.

Respect yourself and our academic community by completing authentic, honest work. Any act of cheating, copying, plagiarizing, allowing a class member to copy, submitting the work of a parent/classmate/online resource as your own, or inappropriately using notes on a test will automatically result in a zero on the assignment and may result in further disciplinary action, including dismissal from the class. Take pride in doing your own work, and doing it well.