

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
“Summer” Assignment
2023-2024

Course Description

The AP English course in Literature and Composition will engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students will consider a work’s structure, style, and themes as well as elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

The course will include intensive study of representative works from various genres, cultures, and periods spanning from the sixteenth century to contemporary times. Students will consider the social and historical values they reflect and embody. Reading will build upon reading done in Advanced English 9, 10 and AP English Language.

Writing will be an integral part of the course, as the AP Lit. exam is weighted toward students writing about literature. Writing assignments will include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. The goal of writing assignments is to increase the students’ ability to explain clearly, cogently, even elegantly, what they understand about literary works and why they interpret them as they do. Since reading and writing stimulate each other, they will be taught together.

At Airline High School, AP English Literature and Composition is a spring semester course. In May, students will have the opportunity to sit for the AP English Literature exam; qualifying scores may result in the awarding of college credit. (Students will be advised to check with their specific colleges for credits awarded.)

The mandatory summer reading must be completed before the first day of class, January 8, 2024. Since you have more time than other classes to complete this assignment, you are required to read **BOTH** of the following books before January:

Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston
Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte

Read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Wuthering Heights* and complete a Major Works Data Sheet for EACH novel (link to data sheet is attached at the end of this document). Be ready for a comprehensive exam and writing for both pieces on the third day of class.

Be ready to submit (via Google Classroom) on the first day of class, January 8, 2024, the Major Works Data Sheet for ALL THREE NOVELS. ***This assignment MUST be submitted to Google Classroom and will not be accepted late -- NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXCUSES!*** Do not procrastinate with this assignment, as it will make things exponentially more difficult if you do! Also, if you are tempted to “take the easy way out” and Google answers or look up texts on SparkNotes, ask yourself if AP Literature is really a journey you want to embark upon. You will receive a zero for ANY amount of plagiarism. Polonius says it best in Act II of *Hamlet*: “To thine own self be true.”

Students or parents who have questions should email me at lisa.rauschenbach@bossierschools.org. You can also come by my room in the fall if you have questions...I would love to meet all of you :). Have a great summer and fall semester! Feel free to email if you need assistance, have questions, or just want to talk about the books you are reading. ~Mrs. Rauschenbach

Tentative Spring 2024 Reading List

All students:

Hamlet, Shakespeare

A Streetcar Named Desire, Williams

Frankenstein, Shelley

Plus a novel of your choice that will be read and annotated independently (you will not pick this until January 2024)

LINK TO THE MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET (please follow the directions carefully):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CgzXMVFCjgt20aTEwr4H-7AZB9VmYtFSfx2nA9XuiII/edit>