



A.P. Literature Grand Haven High School



Course Number:

Grade Level: 11-12

Credits : 1 (.5/semester)

Prerequisite Courses : Students are highly encouraged to have taken Honors American Literature and/or Honors World Literature or A.P. Language

Course Description

AP Literature and Composition is designed to be the equivalent of a first year college English course. At the end of the course students may take an AP exam. Students who earn a three or above on the exam have the potential of earning college credit at most universities. Therefore, the readings throughout this course will be challenging and plentiful. This course will cover a variety of imaginative literature from the sixteenth century to present. Genres such as short fiction, novels, drama, and poetry will be explored. Students will be asked to read actively and closely, taking time to experience, interpret, and evaluate works as well as their historical, cultural and social context.

As reading and writing go hand in hand for a deeper understanding, students will also be asked to write on a regular basis. Writings will be assigned to allow students to explain, evaluate, and deepen their understanding of literary works. Assignments will include reading journals, paragraph responses, creative assignments, timed writings, and formal essays (expository, analytical, & argumentative). All writing is expected to utilize mature vocabulary, logical organization, and demonstrate strong control of grammar usage and a thorough understanding of written Standard English.

Course Objectives

- Close Reading & Literary Analysis (short fiction, novel, drama, & poetry)
- Literary Terminology (fiction/poetry)
- Literary Criticism (types & application)
- Writing (expository, analytical, argumentative, & compare/contrast)
- Timed Writings (in preparation for AP Exam & college)

Student Expectations

- Expect to think! You will be doing much reading and writing. Some of the literature you will love and some you will loathe. Regardless, all of it should make you think. Please do not disregard it simply because it is not to your liking. Use your brain - delve deep - ponder - explore. Step outside your comfort zone and grow as a reader.

Building Behavioral Expectations

TEAM GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

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- Expect to participate. You are the reason this class will succeed or fail. Be active in discussions. Nothing is worse than a participation based class that is continuously silent. Respect and open your mind to the perspectives of others and open theirs to yours. The window of literary interpretation is a large one and there are many possible interpretations for everything. Use YOUR mind and think for yourself! Don't let the Internet, published critics, me or anyone else formulate what are supposed to be your ideas.
- Expect to open your minds and expand your horizons. Do not let your personal interests or tastes blind you to the merits of the literature we will study. Explore your own ideas and beliefs. Question yourself and your beliefs.
- Expect to be awake, conscious, and actively participating while reading. Pay attention to all the tools used by the author, the history of the literature, and your personal reaction to it. Develop close-reading skills. Look very carefully at each work to go beyond the surface. On days readings are due you will be expected to have read for depth not simply page count, so take notes and read thoroughly.
- Expect to write. Develop a desire to improve your writing, and learn to accept suggestions and comments from your classmates and teacher. You will receive feedback on every writing assignment you turn in, but it will be your responsibility to ask additional questions and make the necessary changes. Do not turn in the same paper over and over and expect different results.
- Expect to take risks. Say what you think, not what you think others want to hear. Play with your writing style. English is a very subjective area of study. What worked for you before may not now, or vice versa.
- Expect to grow as a reader and a writer. Do not expect to be an expert from the beginning and do not expect growth to occur without effort and practice.

Communication

See Grand Haven High School website for contact information for individual teachers.

Grading Policy

Daily Homework/Reading Quizzes/ Vocabulary/ In Class Writings/ Discussions/ Activities (40%)

Papers/Projects/Tests (60%)

Scope and Sequence

*Short Fiction Unit

*Novel Units

*Drama Units

*Poetry Unit

*Timed writings & A.P. Exam preparation throughout

*Vocabulary units throughout (1-15)

*Writings will be assigned throughout all units

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