

AP English Syllabus

The primary purpose of AP English is to develop the student's abilities as an independent, critical reader and writer. It is a *college level* course during the senior year. A student receiving a 3 or better (of 5) on the AP exam may qualify for up to one semester's English credit at the chosen college, depending on that college's policies.

Students in an AP class must show the kind of personal responsibility that would be expected of a college student in relationship to work completion, timeliness, and attendance and conduct in class. Any student who does not intend to read regularly and at length should not consider AP English

Active participation and intellectual involvement in classes are key to success in AP English and on the exam. This is not "teaching to the test"; rather it is preparation for a self-confident response to critical questions and prompts in an intelligent, insightful way which indicates a command of the language and the subject at hand.

First quarter:

The AP Boot Camp: intensive writing instruction based on reading and analysis of a variety of stories, essays, and previously read (summer) novels for meaning. Some writing will undergo the standard process of revision to final copy. Others will be drafts to practice getting to the topic quickly in an intelligent manner with incisive and interesting introductions, solid supporting evidence from the text, and thoughtful conclusions.

Second Quarter: Novel. Possible Research Paper (if no paper, then expect one in May)

Students will read an average of 30 pages a night per novel. Quizzes on homework reading may not be announced. Novels will be discussed on the basis of character development, setting, style, and especially theme. Students must be active readers; that is, they must look for what makes the characters, themes, and setting work together. Page tabs are strongly encouraged so that students may find passages that are of interest or answer a prompt. The following are novels to be considered: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, *The Heart of Darkness*, *Tess of the Durbervilles*, *All the King's Men*, *1984*, and *Jane Eyre*. The extended vacations of second quarter should be considered prime reading time.

Third Quarter: Poetry. Skills to be taught include the correct use of poetic terminology to explain the poet's particular contribution to poetry, appreciation of various tools of poetry and how to use them to interpret, and on-the-spot writing about any given poem. Students will be expected to complete a personal poetic interpretation project.

Fourth Quarter is a shortened quarter for AP English in one sense. While the class lasts until the last day of classes for seniors, the AP exam is in May. April vacation shortens the gap between the beginning of the term and the test; therefore, much of the time up to the test is spent on test-taking skills. Incidental reading can be expected.

After the test, students should expect to devise a final English project of their own which will meet given guidelines.