

AP English Literature and Composition Syllabus
Midland Senior High School
Bradley Boyce
bradley.boyce@midlandisd.net

Course Overview

AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level course focused on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply their knowledge of word meaning strategies to determine the meaning of new words encountered in reading materials and will use those words accurately.
2. Read and understand material ranging from simple to complex, analyze the organizational patterns, arguments and positions advanced.
3. Read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature.
4. Write coherent and focused compositions that convey a well-defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument.
5. Combine the rhetorical strategies of narration, exposition, persuasion, and description to produce compositions. Writing will demonstrate a command of standard English, organization, and drafting strategies.

AP English Literature and Composition Exam

You will be required to take the AP exam on **Wednesday, May 6, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.** The AP English Literature and Composition Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and essential knowledge outlined in the course framework. The exam is 3 hours long and includes 55 multiple choice questions and 3 free-response questions.

The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below:

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Exam Weighting	Timing
I	Multiple-choice	55	45%	60 minutes
II	Free-response	3	55%	2 hours

Free Response Questions include (1) Poetry Analysis, (2) Prose Fiction Analysis, and (3) Literary Argument.

AP Classroom Join Codes

3rd: 6M3N3G 5th: 7GMWLZ 6th: G9WXMW

Class Expectations:

- Participate in class and remain engaged in the day's lesson.
- Be responsible for your own learning (i.e. turn in work on time, ask questions, attend tutorials, communicate, etc)
- Have electronic devices put away and only use district-issued devices when appropriate (Professional Courtesy: ALL electronics will be put away when someone is speaking or presenting).
- Be respectful towards others, their space, and their property.
 - Some classes are very crowded—be aware of your volume, your words, and your actions.
- Be respectful of me, my space, and my property.
- We are all adults. Communicate and behave appropriately and professionally.

Required Supplies

- Composition notebook (any color is fine)
- Blue or blank ink pens
- Pencils
- *Optional items include:* small binder or folder for notes, looseleaf notebook paper, and highlighters
 - I will provide paper and highlighters, as needed, but you may provide your own, if you'd like.

Tutorial Times:

I strongly encourage students to let me know that they are coming to tutorials and what they need from tutorials, so I can better prepare to help them. Tutorials will be offered at the following times:

Wednesday: after school

Thursday: during lunch

*By appointment—I will do my best to make myself available to fit your schedule, whenever possible.

Grading Policy (as outlined in MISD's [Secondary Grading Policy](#))

Cycle grades will be weighted based on the following categories:

- Major (projects, tests, essays, etc.): 60%
- Minor (daily work, quizzes, homework, etc.): 40%

Late Work

Teachers will notify students of due dates for all assignments and any changes to due dates. Students who do not turn in assignments by the designated date(s) may be subject to grade penalties in accordance with campus or classroom procedures. The following maximum penalties may be applied to secondary (high school) students:

- One school day late – A maximum grade of 90
- Two school days late – A maximum grade of 80
- Three to five days late – A maximum grade of 70
- After five school days, work does not have to be accepted and a grade of 0 may be assigned.

**MISD Policy*

Homework: Expect homework. Readings will mainly be done independently, outside of class, in order to use class time in the most effective way. Most essay writing and major assignments will not be assigned as homework.

Make-Up Work & Redos

If you are absent, excused or not, it is YOUR responsibility to obtain any missing work, notes, etc. and schedule a new due date with me—MISD policy requires a minimum of 1 day of make-up time for each day missed. Most work will be posted to Google Classroom for you to access in the event you are out. If you know ahead of time that you will miss class, please let me know and I can prepare the missing work for you to take prior to being gone. Please communicate any potential conflicts ahead of time so we can adjust due dates, as needed.

Upon notification of a grade, you will have the opportunity to redo an assignment or test within 5 school days. It is YOUR responsibility to work with me to schedule these opportunities before school, during lunch, or after school. These guidelines do not apply to late work—the original assignment must be completed and submitted on/by the original due date in order to qualify for a redo. If you do not turn in the original assignment, you will not be eligible for a redo. Additional tutorials or intervention assignments may be required prior to a redo being given. **The highest grade you can earn through the redo process is a 75.**

Electronics

Texas House Bill 1481, passed during the 89th Legislative Session, requires all school systems to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting the use of personal communication devices by students on school property during the school day.

In accordance with this state law, MISD requires that student devices are powered off and stored in backpacks, purses, pockets, or similar. Devices covered by this policy include: cellphones, smartwatches, bluetooth and wired headphones, gaming devices, personal laptops, tablets, and any electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication. Devices may not be used during passing periods, transitions, or in the halls at any time during the school day. Devices issued by the district are not affected by this policy..

Students with support plans requiring the use of an electronic device for medical purposes or learning support are affected by this policy.

If a device is out, whether being used or not, a verbal warning will be given to follow the district's policy. If a student does not comply, or the device is out again, an administrator will be notified, the device will be confiscated, parents will be notified, and the device can be retrieved at the end of the day by the student or parent. After the first offense, a parent or guardian will be required to retrieve the device at the end of the school day.

Behavior

Consideration and *Respect* are the primary rules in my class. Be considerate and respectful of the classroom, others (this includes teachers, substitutes, students, and visitors), and yourself. Disruptions of class activities should not occur; harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. Minor infractions of class or school rules will be discussed between the student and teacher, then parent or guardian when needed. Major infractions will be referred to administration.

Additionally, proper online etiquette *will be observed*, and discussion posts will follow the same rules as class. If I find that your post is accusatory, mean-spirited, aggressive, vindictive, or otherwise improper in any way, I will delete your post AND deduct decisive points from whatever assignment the post is attached. If the post is an assignment and it is deleted because of one of the aforementioned reasons, the assignment must be redone and will be counted late. We are here to assist and help each other grow.

Student Responsibilities

This is a rigorous and challenging course, and you must act responsibly and of your own initiative. Double check to make sure attachments are attached to emails and assignments, and in the correct file format, prior to submitting. Be sure you've clicked "Submit" and allowed the assignment to upload before closing out of a window. There will be no excuse for lost work due to human error. If you are unsure about how to attach and submit assignments, please let me know. If you experience any sort of technology issue (device, internet, etc.) try to take pictures of the issue (in order to document and to help potentially solve the issue) then notify me in person or via email as soon as possible.

Teacher Responsibilities

As your point of contact for this course, I will communicate to you anything I learn that could impact you in this class and at MHS. Just as I expect you to treat me, my space, and my time with respect, I will offer you the same. Please be mindful that I have a life outside the walls of this school, and I will be mindful of the same for you. I will do my best to reply to your emails within a reasonable timeframe. If you ever feel as though I am not staying up to par on my end, or you are unsure of something, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My goal is to ensure we all have a productive, successful, and fun school year. Let's help each other achieve that goal.

Classroom Expectations

Upon entering the classroom, students are expected to read the board and begin preparing for the class period (getting a chromebook, paper, handout, etc.) This should begin **before** the tardy bell. Once the tardy bell rings, we should be able to begin class. We have much material to cover this year, so do not waste the time we do have.

You are expected to sit in your assigned seat, or with an assigned group—these will change frequently based on certain assignments, as well as class behavior. Chromebooks can be used during designated times, otherwise put away or charging in a designated location.

Attendance, Participation, and Communication

Be in class on time each day. If you are late for any reason, you need to quietly enter class and not disturb others. Remember: if you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will be marked absent for the period.

Attendance errors must be brought to my attention ASAP. After 3 school days, the attendance clerks may not correct them.

Check Google Classroom and your emails regularly, especially if you miss class. If you cannot access Skyward, Google Classroom, AP Classroom, or your email for any reason, please let me know ASAP in order to fix the issue.

Procrastination will be impossible in a class such as this. If you are having trouble meeting a deadline, please contact me *before* the deadline. I do not want anyone to become overwhelmed or discouraged, but I cannot help you if you do not communicate with me. I do my best to reply to emails as quickly as possible, but be patient on weekends and school holidays.

If something is ever unclear, you are unsure, or you are feeling overwhelmed, do not hesitate to reach out. My number one goal is for you to succeed in my class. I will work with you however I can, but it is up to you to communicate those things with me. Ask questions as they arise; do not wait until the last minute to express concerns.

Please use your MISD student email for all communication purposes and to access/send shared files. This ensures communication will not be filtered out by the system.

Audio & Visual Recordings

Except in cases of a documented disability accommodation, recording is never allowed because it is unethical to record another person without their prior knowledge and consent. Some class exercises throughout the semester will require students (and/or the instructor) to play the role of devil's advocate in relation to a particular reading assignment or social issue; any audio and/or visual recording of these exercises could be taken out of context and could reflect badly on the course participants. Any student who makes audio and/or visual recordings of anything that takes place in class without written consent, whether involving the instructor or other students, will be reported to their grade-level administrator at MHS.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work offered for credit. *A student commits plagiarism if he/she:*

- 1. fails to acknowledge the sources of any information** in a paper which is not either common knowledge or personal knowledge. A student can acknowledge a source through in-text citations, attribution lines, footnotes, or other forms of documentation approved by the instructor. Common knowledge is the basic information within a field or discipline, as well as most historical dates and facts, and many ordinary observations.
- 2. fails to acknowledge direct quotation either by using quotation marks or (for longer passages) indentation.** Without the quotation marks or indentation, passages copied directly from a source might be considered plagiarized even if it is followed by an in-text citation or a footnote. The citation or footnote acknowledges that there is a source, but it does not indicate that the writer has borrowed someone else's exact words. If a writer uses the language of a source, word-for word, he/she must use quotation marks or block indentation.
- 3. merely paraphrases the original words of the source.** Some students think they can avoid a charge of plagiarism by changing a few words in each sentence they copy or by rearranging the shape of phrases or the order of sentences in a paragraph. This is not true. When taking notes students must be careful to put ideas in their own words or to use direct quotations when relying on phrases directly borrowed from a source.
- 4. borrows the ideas, examples, or structure of the source without acknowledging it.** A student can be guilty of plagiarism if he/she systematically borrows the ideas and organization of a source even if the language of the piece is on a major news event by using exactly the same ideas in the same order as they appear in an article in any popular news magazine.
- 5. takes, buys, or receives a paper written by someone else and presents it as the student's own.**

6. uses one paper for two different courses, or re-uses a paper previously submitted for credit, without the prior approval of the instructor or instructors.

7. fails to include a Works Cited page when called for one to acknowledge the work of others referenced.

Plagiarism will result in a 0 on that assignment. Parents will be notified to discuss next steps.

Academic Dishonesty & Artificial Intelligence Usage

Academic dishonesty, including cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication during an exam will not be tolerated, and will result in disciplinary consequences. The unauthorized use of any AI system to complete assignments in any way, shape, or form will be considered academic dishonesty and will result in academic penalties. ALL WORK submitted by students should be original.

Note of Concern: This course will be run as a college level course. Therefore, some discussions will be more on an adult level than other classrooms. The utmost maturity must be maintained during these discussions and on topics that are clearly being indicated by the texts in order to maximize learning. Subject matter may go against your personal or religious beliefs. However, discussion of the existence of such subject matter and the goal of the creator to incorporate such subject matter does not mean that you personally condone that behavior. Likewise, people's personal beliefs **will not** be insulted. Academic discussions often question uncomfortable subject matter, yet with the expectation in class that discussion does not mean a mandatory change in beliefs; classes can freely explore academic possibilities and not personal beliefs. Additionally, standards for this class must cover the standards required by CollegeBoard. Points cannot be granted or taken away based on whether or not you agree with a given point.

Note from College Board: "AP students are not expected or asked to subscribe to any one specific set of cultural or political values, but are expected to have the maturity to analyze perspectives different from their own and to question the meaning, purpose, or effect of such content within the literary work as a whole."

Disclaimer & Rights

Information contained in this syllabus was, to the best of my knowledge, considered correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the semester. However, I reserve the right, acting within the policies and procedures of Midland ISD to make changes in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation to better serve the students. Students will be informed about the changes, if any.

For any AP English Literature and Composition-specific questions, please see College Board's [course and exam description](#).