

## AP English Literature

Carlajo Cancilla

Syllabus

ccancilla@ldisd.net

“Think before you speak. Read before you think.” – Fran Lebowitz

### INTRODUCTION

This course is designed to offer students an in-depth, analytical study of British, American, and world literature. This study culminates in the taking of the AP<sup>®</sup> English Literature exam and, ideally, prepares students for college reading and writing courses. Students will study from various forms of literature, including poetry, short stories, novels, plays, and many excerpts from longer texts. There will be a strong emphasis on practicing and perfecting analytical composition, especially on-demand writing. The class will be composed of three main components:

- Literary analysis of POETRY
- Literary analysis of PROSE
- Analytical WRITING of literature and poetry

### COURSE MATERIALS – Text Book: *Literature and Composition*

- Three-ring binder with pockets, dedicated to AP English (trust me, you'll fill it up!)
- Narrow or college-ruled lined paper
- Blue and black ink pens
- Approved technological device

### EVALUATION

The assessments and grades in this class will follow the Lake Dallas High School grading scale.

Each assessment is weighted as follows:

<b>Formative Assessments</b> (homework, quizzes)	60% of grade
<b>Summative Assessments</b> (tests, on-demand writings, projects, socratics)	40% of grade

### COURSE OVERVIEW

We will also be studying longer works. This list may be shortened due to instructor discretion. These books include, but are not limited to:

- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- *Sing, Unburied*, *Sing* by Jesmyn Ward
- *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

The materials we are studying align with the requirements suggested by the College Board, the creators of the Advanced Placement exams. For the AP English Lit exam, College Board has identified six big ideas and enduring understandings that make up the content of the exam and its associated course:

### **CHARACTERIZATION**

**Enduring Understanding:** Characters in literature allow readers to study and explore a range of values, beliefs, assumptions, biases, and cultural norms represented by those characters.

### **SETTING**

**Enduring Understanding:** Setting and the details associated with it not only depict a time and place, but also convey values associated with that setting.

### **STRUCTURE**

**Enduring Understanding:** The arrangement of the parts and sections of a text, the relationship of the parts to each other, and the sequence in which the text reveals information are all structural choices made by a writer that contribute to the reader's interpretation of a text.

### **NARRATION**

**Enduring Understanding:** A narrator's or speaker's perspective controls the details and emphasizes that affect how readers experience and interpret a text.

### **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

**Enduring Understanding:** Comparisons, representations, and associations shift meaning from the literal to the figurative and invite readers to interpret a text.

### **LITERARY ARGUMENTATION**

**Enduring Understanding:** Readers establish and communicate their interpretations of literature through arguments supported by textual evidence.

### **BASIC UNITS OF STUDY**

Units may be moved around, eliminated, or added at the teacher's discretion.

#### **Semester One:**

Unit One: **Short Fiction**

Unit Two: **Poetry; *Where the Crawdads Sing***

Unit Three: ***Hamlet***

Unit Four: **Prose Analysis Unit**

Unit Five: **Poem Unit II**

Unit Six: **Poetry Journal**

#### **Semester Two:**

Unit One: ***Sing, Unburied, Sing***

Unit Two: ***The Awakening, Streetcar***

Unit Three: **Poetry Then and Now**

Unit Four: ***All the Light We Cannot See***

Unit Five: **Poetry: Sonnets**

Unit Six: **AP Test Prep (ongoing through year)**

### **CLASSROOM RULES**

1. B. Please respect your peers and your teachers, especially when anyone is speaking.

2. Furthermore, **respect yourself**. This means putting effort into producing quality work and maintaining your academic integrity. If you are caught cheating on an assignment you will receive zero credit and will not be given an opportunity to redo it.
3. You are responsible for completing all work missed due to an absence. It is your responsibility to catch up on daily notes and assignments.
4. **Late work:** I understand that certain difficulties arise, so if unforeseen circumstances suddenly interfere with a due date please talk to me as soon as possible and we can work something out.
5. **You are considered tardy if you are not prepared for class and in the room when the bell rings.** If you are coming late to my class because of obligations to another teacher or class, please ask that teacher for a signed pass explaining the circumstances.
6. **I do not offer extra credit** in AP English literature. Put your full effort into the work given to you and make sure you stay on top of your assignments.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to do their own work in this class. Copying homework or looking at answers on someone else's test is obviously cheating. However, other behaviors also fall into the realm of dishonesty. Plagiarism—taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own—will not be tolerated. If you cheat or plagiarize, you will automatically receive a zero on that assignment, I will contact your parents, and the administration will be notified. Cheating is always avoidable; please make the right decision and speak to me if you are having difficulties with a task.

### **IF YOU NEED HELP, JUST ASK!**

I am sure that several texts or assignments will result in confusion or frustration, and I am prepared to take the necessary time and effort to avoid these emotions. Furthermore, if extenuating circumstances arise and you are finding it difficult to complete an assignment on time, please come speak to me! I will attempt to accommodate you, as I understand you are also dealing with sports, hobbies, families, part-time jobs, and personal lives. My typical office hours are 8:-8:15 a.m. or by appointment. Just remember, if you don't ask for help, I may not know you need it!