

# AP English Literature and Composition

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Welcome to AP English! I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and working together this year. Your choice to take Advanced Placement English indicates that your love of language and literature has inspired you to choose a full-year college-level English class for your senior year. I expect all of you to come to class prepared and to be active participants in the daily classroom activities.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS** Throughout the course of the year, these questions will help guide our exploration of the literature, from our class discussions to the writing assignments you will undertake.

- What does the “enduring context” tell us about human nature and the way it is depicted through literature?
- What aspects of evaluating classical literature are relevant today?
- How do historical and contemporary contexts determine who has a voice in literature?
- How have writers used various means to challenge social norms?

## **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- A supply of blue/black **pens and pencils**
- A **folder** with pockets for handouts and homework
- A **notebook** (either a notebook with perforated pages or a 3-ring binder with loose-leaf paper)
- **Stickie notes** for annotating
- An **electronic device** compliant with NCHS BYOD guidelines

## **CORE TEXTS:**

### **Classroom Texts**

*Poetics* by Aristotle

*Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Choice Book Unit

Poetry Unit

Selected supplementary texts

**EXTRA HELP & THE WRITING CENTER:** As AP students, the expectation is that you will actively seek feedback on your writing. The Writing Center is located in room 214 and is staffed by a classroom teacher every period. You do not need to schedule an appointment in advance.

I am available for extra help by appointment. If you have concerns or questions pertaining to the class material or your work/progress, **please see me or email me in advance to set up a specific meeting time.**

Come to our meeting with specific questions. Times available: before/after school; periods 2, 4, 7, 8.

**SCHOOL EMAIL & GOOGLE CLASSROOM:** Check your school email at least once each school day. I often send updates, feedback, reminders, and assignments via your school email and Google Classroom. If you think you will forget to check your school email, you should set up automatic forwarding to your personal email.

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

Remember that teachers do not *give* grades; students *earn* grades. In order for you to earn the grade that best reflects your efforts and capabilities, please read through the following policies.

**ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION:** Most assignments will be submitted electronically through Google Classroom, Turnitin, or Google Apps, unless otherwise indicated on the Homework Website or in class.

**LATENESS:** All assignments should be completed and submitted on time. Because most of our homework assignments will be used to inspire classroom discussion and work for subsequent days, **I will not accept late homework.** If you have not submitted a homework assignment on time, you will receive a zero for that particular assignment.

All projects and papers should be submitted at the start of class on the due date unless otherwise indicated on Google Classroom or the Homework Website. If there is an emergency and you have a legitimate reason as to why you cannot submit a completed paper/project on time, **please speak with me about an extension no later than two days prior to the due date. The penalty for late papers and projects, without an extension, is 5% of possible points per day. Please remember that it is better to speak to me about your concerns than to miss a deadline.**

To ensure that you keep up with assignments and are able to make progress in the class, **I will only accept late papers/projects within two weeks of the deadline.** With the “5% per day” late policy, after ten days (two weeks), the highest grade possible would be a 50% —failing. If I do not receive a major assignment within two weeks of the deadline, you will receive a zero for your project/paper and you can no longer make it up.

**GRADING:** Grades will be earned on a point-based system. Your quarter grade will be calculated by dividing the total points earned by the total amount of points available. Homework and classwork assignments are generally 10-12 points. Reading portfolios will be worth 50 points. Class participation is evaluated twice a quarter. Projects and major writing assignments will generally be worth 100 points.

**ABSENCES:** If you are absent on the day that a homework assignment or major project/paper is due, **it is your responsibility to turn in the assignments that were due during your absence** from school—I will not ask for them. If you are absent for multiple days leading up to an assignment, please speak to me about the details of assignments and when you can complete the work.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** There is a zero-tolerance policy for cheating and plagiarism. Working with another student or getting help from someone is a great way to enhance your understanding, but your work must be your own. **If you plagiarize or cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment and will not have the opportunity to make up this work.** Moreover, your parent/guardian and Guidance Counselor will be notified.

## CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES (BYOD):

**School Policy:** “New Canaan High School recognizes that cell phones and other electronic devices are an integral part of modern society and are sometimes used for emergencies or other vital communication between parents and students. Nonetheless, **no cell phone or electronic device is to be used for any purpose during class time**. If a student is caught using a cell phone or electronic device in any manner while a class is in session, the teacher will confiscate the phone or device and it will not be returned until a parent comes to school to claim it. Repeated violations of this policy shall warrant further disciplinary action by the school administration. The only exceptions to this rule are when use of an electronic device is designated within a student’s individual education plan (IEP) or 504, or when the device is part of a teacher’s classroom instruction.”

### Ms. Hernberg’s Policy:

**Cell Phone: If I see or hear your cell phone while I am conducting class, I will confiscate it.** The ONLY time it is acceptable to use your cell phone in class without explicit permission is while I am assigning homework, if you use it for a planner. You MUST turn your cell phone to SILENT during class.

*1<sup>st</sup> Offense:* I will confiscate the phone and return it to you at the end of the period.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:* I will confiscate the phone and give it to the main office. You must retrieve it there at the end of the day.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:* I will confiscate the phone and a parent or guardian will need to make an appointment with me to pick it up.

*4<sup>th</sup> Offense:* I will confiscate the phone and a school administrator will be involved.

**BYOD Technology:** Your BYOD technology may be out when taking notes or when I explicitly give permission for use; otherwise, it should be away and silenced.

## THE AP EXAM:

In order to earn advanced placement credit for this course, you will need to take the AP English Literature and Composition Exam on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the college or university you attend, many honor a high score on the exam by allowing you to skip introductory classes or earn college credit. The format of the test is below. Additional information can be found on The College Board website.

### AP English Literature and Composition Exam Structure

#### AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION EXAM: 3 HOURS

##### Assessment Overview

The AP English Literature and Composition Exam employs multiple-choice questions and free-response prompts to test students’ skills in literary analysis of passages from prose and poetry texts.

##### Format of Assessment

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###### Section I: Multiple Choice | 60 Minutes | 55 Questions | 45% of Exam Score

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- Includes excerpts from several published works of drama, poetry, or prose fiction
- Each excerpt is accompanied by several multiple-choice questions or prompts

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###### Section II: Free Response | 120 Minutes | 3 Questions | 55% of Exam Score

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- Students have 120 minutes to write essay responses to three free-response prompts from the following categories:
  - o A literary analysis of a given poem
  - o A literary analysis of a given passage of prose fiction
  - o An analysis that examines a specific concept, issue, or element in a work of literary merit selected by the student