

Welcome!

I'm so glad you're considering enrollment in AP English Literature and Composition next year. To start, I'd like to explain what College Board says an AP Lit course should accomplish:

An AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. The course includes intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit. Writing is an integral part of the AP English Literature and Composition course and exam. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays.

Next year, we've got some GREAT texts to look at:

- Summer Reading: *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Great Gatsby*
- Christmas Reading: *1984*
- Yearly Readings:
 - *Macbeth*
 - *Frankenstein*
 - *Crime and Punishment*
 - *The Heart of Darkness*
 - Compilation text of fiction and poetry

But be aware: these are college level texts and are intended for a mature, adult reader. There are times when words may be used that I'd prefer remained absent, but any objectionable phrasing or content will be handled with the utmost decorum using a Christian perspective. We will not dwell on objectionable phrasing or read it aloud in class, but it's sometimes an unavoidable part of college-level texts. Because this is college level material, I expect my students to handle it like the mature adults they claim to be by signing up for this course. Also, because this is a college level class, my first line of contact will ALWAYS be the student. What this means is that I expect my students to contact me if there is ever anything they need to discuss. If there is a behavior or academic issue, I require students to meet with me one-on-one. I will only involve parents and administration if the student and I cannot reach a resolution. This is all part of helping you grow into a college-ready student, and being comfortable discussing questions and concerns with your teachers is a vital part of this process.

Also, take note: we are CHANGING OUR AP TEST REQUIREMENTS. The new policy for AP courses is as follows:

- **Option One**: Complete the AP Course, take the AP Exam in the spring, and receive AP weighting (and potential college credit).
- **Option Two**: Complete the AP course, take a semester exam (in lieu of the AP exam), and receive honors weighting. (With this option, students will not have the possibility of earning college credit.)

So let's talk about THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Ask TWO teachers (non-English courses) for a recommendation. The teachers should put these recommendations in my mailbox. They SHOULD NOT hand them back to you. Remember, teachers are very

busy, so get these handed out right away. You MUST have taken a class with the teachers who write your recommendation.

2. Ask your current ENGLISH teacher to submit a recommendation (If I'm your current teacher, we're good).
3. WRITE (not type) a 200-250 word essay that explains why you think the study of literature is vital not only for a well-rounded student, but also a well-rounded citizen.
4. Sign the Student/Parent Agreement Form
5. **YOU should submit #3 and #4 to Mrs. Hill or the front office by FRIDAY, APRIL 28th. Your teachers will submit the recommendations forms.**
6. Finally, complete the summer assignments by the deadline (August 1st). Even if you submit all of the application forms, failure to complete the summer assignment by deadline will result in you being removed from the AP course next year.

Remember - you should be prepared for a demanding workload that may require a significantly larger time investment than what you may have experienced in previous English courses (even mine!). Make sure you are up for the challenges of this course. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to come speak with me one-on-one. I'm excited about the class and I look forward to seeing you next year as we begin the trek into AP Literature!

Blessings,

Mrs. Nikki Hill

Student:

By signing below, I guarantee that I fully understand the objective and standards for the course AP Literature and Composition. I also fully understand my responsibilities for submitting the AP Application on time and for completing the summer reading and related assignments. I understand that if I fail to submit any of the required documents or assignments, my class schedule will be changed. I agree to academic honesty in all of my work.

Student Name (PRINTED): _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Date: _____

Parents/Guardians:

By signing below, I/we indicate awareness and understanding of my student's responsibilities for enrolling in the course, including the application and summer reading requirements. I understand that if my student fails to submit the complete application or summer assignment by the due dates, my student will not be allowed to enroll in the AP Literature course next year. I understand that the first line of communication must come from my student. I also understand that the material presented in this course is of a college nature and that, though Christian principles will always be used in handling this material, there might be occasions where unsavory language is used. I support my student's efforts to fulfill his or her classroom expectations for the course.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Classroom Teacher Recommendation for AP English Literature

Please return to Mrs. Hill's box by APRIL 28th, 2017. THANK YOU!

Student:

Teacher:

Course:

Overall Class Score:

Recommended for the course, based upon grades, effort, work ethic, and ability?	Yes	No
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Comments:

Classroom Teacher Recommendation for AP English Literature

Please return to Mrs. Hill's box by APRIL 28th, 2017. THANK YOU!

Student:

Teacher:

Course:

Overall Class Score:

Recommended for the course, based upon grades, effort, work ethic, and ability?

Yes

No

Comments:

English Teacher Recommendation for AP English Literature

Please return to Mrs. Hill's box by APRIL 28th, 2017. THANK YOU!

Student:

Teacher:

Course:

Overall Class Score:

Recommended for the course, based upon grades, effort, work ethic, and ability?

Yes

No

Comments: