

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY – **MRS. BAKER**  
CLASSROOM: **J-204**

### CLASS INFORMATION AND GENERAL SYLLABUS (2023-2024)

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Advanced Placements (AP) English Literature and Composition will give students a learning experience equivalent to a typical college undergrad introduction to literature class. Through close reading of literary texts, students will come to understand how writers use language to provide meaning and to answer the big questions in life. We will “measure” literature against a history of philosophy to understand how literature fits into its own time as well as in all time. We will ask, “What is art?” and try to determine the qualities of great literature. Our literary analysis will look through the lenses of style and structure, rhetorical strategies, diction, figurative language, imagery, detail and development, tone, and syntax. Vocabulary study and the mastery of literary terms are important. Explicating literature and being able to write well are key components of the class.

According to the guidelines promoted by the College Board, students should be able to do the following upon completion of this course:

- Improve close reading and analytical strategies
- Stretch their imaginative abilities in reaction to literature
- Improve their ability to find and explain (through discussion and writing) what is of value in literature
- Revisit the purposes and strategies of rhetoric in order to
  - Develop an effective use of rhetoric, including controlling tone, establishing and maintaining voice, and achieving appropriate emphasis through diction and sentence structure
  - Improve organization in writing through techniques to improve coherence such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis
  - Effectively state, support, and explain claims in arguments
- Advance vocabulary skills to cope with unfamiliar language

--*Course Description: Advanced Placement English*, the College Board (2009)

#### TECHNOLOGY

All high school students are required to have a fully charged, fully functioning laptop in class each day. Cell phones and other tablets are not acceptable devices.

#### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- It is expected that every student will conduct himself in an orderly, courteous manner at all times with prompt and respectful obedience to all school personnel, following all adult direction without comment. If a student questions a teacher’s decision, he/she should speak to the teacher privately after class. At that time, he/she should respectfully explain the situation and wait for the teacher’s response.
- It is expected that every student will respect the feelings and rights of others. This includes students, teachers and visitors.
- It is expected that every student will conduct himself in an honest manner, avoiding such actions as lying, stealing and cheating.
- It is expected that every student will be on time to each class and be prepared with a proper mental attitude and all their necessary materials, books and assigned work.
- It is expected that every student understands that the teacher’s desk, computer, and other personal belongings and work area is personal property and will be treated as such.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Primary Text: *Literature & Composition: Reading, Writing, Thinking*, Carol Jago, Renee H. Shea, Lawrence Scanlon, and Robin Dissin Aufses (Bedfore/St. Martins 2011)
- Binder AND pocketed folders
- Pencils
- Blue or black ink pens (no bright colors)
- Highlighters
- Post-it notes
- Other materials as needed for projects

## ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS OVERVIEW

This class will be structured to integrate reading, composition, and discussion with a series of topical workshops addressing various factors relevant to written and oral expression. Readings each quarter will primarily include essays, short stories, poetry, novels, and drama selections arranged into thematic units.

While class discussion will often focus on critical analysis strategies applied to current reading, instructional time will also be devoted to composition, vocabulary, and relevant study of historical, biographical, and cultural information.

## COMPOSITION

Writings throughout the year will include...

1. Informal writings, such as ungraded free-writes, reaction papers, and journal entries.
2. Special writing assignments coordinated with writing workshops. These will give students opportunities to practice rhetorical strategies, sentence combination, paragraph organization, integration of direct quotes, and effective use of tone and voice.
3. Frequently, at the end of selections assigned, students answer the questions which focus on elements of fiction and other strategies that each author uses. As time permits, students take turns leading class discussions on these questions and answers.
4. Free-response timed in-class essays. These essays will prepare students for the AP exam in the spring. They will include expository, analytical, and argumentative assignments.
5. An extended essay that is persuasive in nature and answers a question at issue by synthesizing researched support.

## OTHER PROJECTS AND ASSESSMENTS

1. Homework will usually consist of reading and informal writing assignments, including study questions, journal entries, and reaction papers.
2. Students should expect regular reading checks and quizzes that require a working knowledge of textual details from assigned reading. Quizzes will often provide opportunities to answer multiple choice questions that require students to answer reading passage questions similar in approach and format to those on the AP English Language exam.

## GRADING

### **Reflects SFCA's grading policy:**

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below

Grades assigned in AP English Literature and Composition will be categorized by type and weighted according to three "levels," as indicated below. Unless otherwise noted, essays will be scored using the AP general rubric, and homework and project work will be scored using the participation rubric.

### **Level One Grades (Daily) 15%**

- Response Questions
- Homework (Vocab, annotating, reading logs, etc.)
- Writing Checks (Brief response writings)
- In-class Essays
- Participation

### **Level Two Grades (Minor) 30%**

- Quizzes
- Presentations

### **Level Three Grades (Major) 45%**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Essays
- Major Tests
- Projects/Portfolios

### **Quarterly Project 10%**

#### Important Grading Notes

- ❖ Essays and reaction paper evaluations will be based upon the Level Three (general essay) rubric. Homework and participation evaluations will be based upon the Levels One and Two (general participation) rubric.
- ❖ The research paper and project evaluations will be based upon specialized rubrics that will be distributed when these assignments are made.
- ❖ Midterm and Final Exams count as 20% of semester grade.
- ❖ Test Make-Up and Re-Take guidelines are provided in the SFCA Student Handbook.

#### Other Policies and Procedure Notes

- ❖ Plagiarism of any assignment is strictly prohibited and will result in a '0' and discipline according the school handbook.
- ❖ Primary texts, current works being studied, notebook, pen/pencil, highlighter, and post-it notes should be brought to class each day unless otherwise instructed.
- ❖ It is the **STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO GET WORK MISSED DUE TO ANY ABSENCE.**
- ❖ **No major assignments or test make-ups will be accepted after one week past the due date without approval.**
- ❖ Students will be expected to read longer works mostly outside of class, take appropriate notes, answer assigned questions, prepare a Critical Reading Portfolio (CRP) entry, and be prepared for class discussion by the specified date.
- ❖ Most essay grades will be evaluated using our AP English Literature and Composition General Rubric.
- ❖ Class discussion in AP is extremely important. Each student is expected to keep up with all assignments and contribute to class discussion as much as possible.
- ❖ **All assigned questions are to be answered in COMPLETE SENTENCES.**
- ❖ **Weekly reading logs will NOT be accepted for late credit after 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

#### **DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

- ❖ The student will receive a verbal warning the first time.
- ❖ The student will receive a written warning the second time that will be sent home to the parents via FACTS and a conference may be requested.
- ❖ The teacher will assign a penalty to the student in the form of a detention, written assignment, or other discipline deemed appropriate if there is a third occurrence of discipline issues.
- ❖ The teacher may refer the student to the Administration if a fourth incident arises.

**SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

CLASS: AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

INSTRUCTOR: MRS. BAKER

CLASSROOM: J-204

This syllabus contains important information specific to this course. It is important for parent and student to read and discuss the information.

We urge you to activate your *FACTS* account online and use it as a resource.

After reading the syllabus, fill out this form and submit it to the appropriate assignment in your Canvas by **Monday, August 14, 2023.**

\*\*\***Student Name (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the course syllabus...**

(Student Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(Parent Signature) \_\_\_\_\_