Advanced Placement Literature and Composition/Dual Credit
Course Description / 2014-2015

The senior AP English class is a college-level course in reading, discussing, and writing about British, American, and world literature from a broad spectrum of genres. This course has been approved by College Board and not only meets but exceeds its standards. The required reading is both wide and deep and engages students in close reading, analysis, and evaluation of entire works, including:

- *Brave New World*
- *Hamlet*
- “A Modest Proposal”
- “No Exit”
- *Frankenstein*
- *Oedipus Rex*
- *Candide*
- *Canterbury Tales*
- *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
- *The Inferno* (J. Ciardi translation)
- *The Stranger* (M. Ward translation)

Additional readings from the AP exam list will be used for outside reading assignments. These works will be provided for your reading pleasure; however, there are several works, some of which you choose, that will need to be purchased. Lists will be provided allowing ample time for those of you who like to search for deals.

Students and parents should understand that these works, both in subject matter and language, are sophisticated. Our study of them will be no less so. Course enrollment implies acceptance of these standards.

**Course Expectations**

A survey of world literature from the seventeenth century to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors and traditions.

**Prerequisite:** Composition II or equivalent

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with literary periods and their legacy of important ideas.
2. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical and cultural events, and characteristic perspectives and attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of literary works as expressions of individual and human values within the social, political, cultural, and religious contexts of different literary periods.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of major genres and forms of literature.
5. Understand the development of characteristic forms and styles of expression during different historical periods and in different regions.
6. Develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
7. Analyze and synthesize aesthetic, historical, formal, and ideological approaches to interpreting literature through class discussion, presentations, written assignments, and exams.
8. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
9. Produce critical essays about the assigned readings. These essays should support a debatable thesis, utilize primary and secondary sources, document and cite those sources according to MLA style, avoid plagiarism, and express ideas in clear and grammatically correct prose.
**Materials** required in class include: a blue or black pen, notebook paper, a pencil with eraser, several colored highlighters, small post-it notes, and a flash drive for English. You must find a system of organization for your notes and materials given to you. It is not required that you purchase the books listed for the class; however, you may opt to do this. Please see me for translations and editions before you purchase the books.

**Grading** is completed on a point system. Assignments that require more time and effort are assigned greater points than daily grades. This system makes it easy for you to keep track of your own grades. Progress reports distributed at the three-week mark must be signed if the student receives a grade of 75% or lower (remember, any AP grade below a 70% does not receive the additional AP quality points). **LATE WORK:** 20% will be deducted for the 1st day and 50% on the 2nd day. Work will not be accepted after 1-week and will receive a grade of 0. In addition, students have two days to make up in class work (timed writings, tests) without a deduction. Students will not be able to make up tests, timed writings or other in class work after 1-week from the date they return. You will receive a zero on anything not made up within the 1-week time frame. It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements and come in to make up work.

You will also complete a timed writing near the end of the course that will be worth 5-percent of your final grade.

**Tutoring** times are set, but if you need to meet with me outside those times, please make an appointment. My e-mail address is cameron.yarborough@risd.org