

AP Literature and Composition

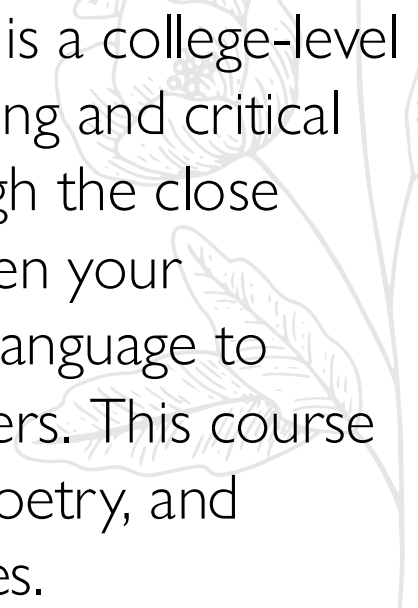
Ms. Michelle Ruiz

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Course Overview



AP English Literature and Composition is a college-level course that engages you in careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, you will deepen your understanding of the ways writers use language to provide meaning and engage their readers. This course emphasizes literary analysis of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures.

Student Responsibilities



- ☐ Read a variety of literary works across genres and time periods (in their entirety).
- ☐ Analyze literary elements such as tone, structure, character, setting, and figurative language.
- ☐ Write literary analysis essays with clarity, sophistication, and coherence.
- ☐ Develop interpretive arguments supported by textual evidence and reasoning.
- ☐ Engage in thoughtful discussion and collaboration.
- ☐ Prepare for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam in May.

Texts and Materials

You will read a combination of full-length texts and shorter works (poems, short stories, etc.). In some cases, I will provide the work of literature for you and in others, you will have to obtain your own copy of the work. It must be a hard copy. Works may include but are not limited to:



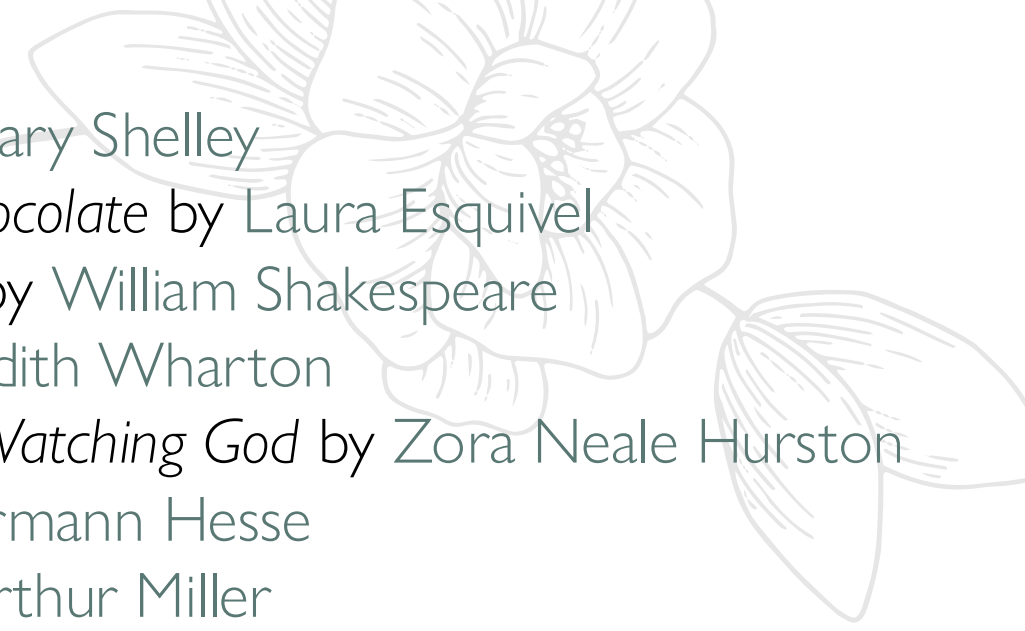
Novels and Plays

- ☐ *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- ☐ *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel
- ☐ *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- ☐ *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton
- ☐ *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- ☐ *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse
- ☐ *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- ☐ *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger

Poetry and Short Fiction:

Selected poems from canonical and contemporary authors including but not limited to William Shakespeare, John Donne, Emily Dickinson, Mary Oliver, and Richard Blanco will be discussed in class.

Short stories by authors such as William Faulkner, Alice Walker, and Michael Garcia Bertrand. Other authors will be explored as well.



Assignments and Assessments



- ❑ Timed in-class essays (40 minutes)
- ❑ Formal/informal literary analysis
- ❑ Poetry and prose annotations
- ❑ Socratic seminars and group discussions
- ❑ AP style timed multiple-choice questions (time will vary)
- ❑ Timed Collaborative Quizzes (time will vary)
- ❑ Creative projects and presentations



Grades should not be a surprise. I typically post comments along with grades providing students with feedback on their assignments, or they can simply request the assignment, and the commentary will be there as well.

Grading Policy

The majority of your grades will be made up of the following:

- ❑ **Essays and Major Assessments:** 3 grades (timed or not)
- ❑ **Discussions:** 2 grades
- ❑ **Reading Quizzes – Prove You Read:** 2 grades
- ❑ **Annotations:** 2 and sometimes 3 grades depending on the length and involvement of the piece

Late Work and Make-up Work



Timeliness and accountability are essential to your success in AP Literature and Composition. Due to the timed and in-class nature of many assessments, it is important that you are present and on time to fully engage with the work and practice exam conditions. Please read the following policy carefully:

Timed Writes & Multiple Choice (MCQ's) Exams

Unexcused Tardiness or Absence:

Students who arrive late to class without an excused tardy pass will not be allowed to make up any timed write or multiple-choice exam given that day. These assessments are structured to simulate AP exam conditions and must be taken in full and within the allotted time. The same procedure will be used for absences.

Late Work and Make-up Work



Excused Tardiness or Absence:

If you are late or absent with an excused pass or note, you must make arrangements with Ms. Ruiz to complete the missed timed write or MC exam before school or during another class period within one week of the original assessment date.

- ☐ Timed Writes will be completed in a single 40-minute sitting.
- ☐ Multiple Choice Exams vary in length and may take anywhere from 10 to 60 minutes depending on the number of questions.
- ☐ You are responsible for ensuring you have enough time to complete the exam in one sitting.

You should be proactive in scheduling your make-up assessment. I will not remind you. Missed assessments that are not made up within the designated (one week) time frame will result in a zero.

General Late Work

Any assignments turned in late may incur a grade penalty resulting in a grade no higher than a C unless the student has an excused absence or a documented accommodation.

Daily work and annotations may receive partial credit if submitted late, at the discretion of the teacher.

We're taking it back to the 90's in here—pens, pencils, paper, and brainpower. All notes will be taken by hand, and all assignments will be handwritten. Laptops and tablets will only be used during formal assessments (MCQs and FRQs). Cell phones should be silenced and out of sight unless I specifically say otherwise—this goes for tablets and laptops as well. If your devices become more interesting than class, it'll earn a vacation in my desk until the end of the period. Remember that while you're in room 1108, you're in training for the big game—the AP Exam.

Headphones and earbuds should be put away during lecture notes, reading, and class discussion. I need your ears (both of them) during these very important moments in our class. Once we move on to independent work and I give you the OK, you use them. Until then, please keep them out of sight and out of your ears.

Electronic Devices and Earbuds



Class Expectations



- ❑ Come prepared and ready to engage each day.
- ❑ Respect diverse opinions and voices.
- ❑ Uphold academic integrity at all times.
- ❑ Actively participate in discussions and group work.
- ❑ Take responsibility for keeping up with reading and deadlines.
- ❑ Do the hard work.
 - ❑ The value is in the struggle. You (we) want things to feel valuable. Literature is valuable. Art is valuable in its many forms. When you struggle to get through it and when you struggle to achieve meaning, this adds value. And when you begin to recognize the struggle of the writer to create it, it will deepen the value.
- ❑ Be a community—a group of people who agree to grow together. We grow through struggle and having a shared goal—to appreciate and understand literature and how it reflects the human condition.

Thank you

Ms. Michelle Ruiz

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I typically will respond to emails received after 2:20 on the following business day, in the morning. I am very good about responding to emails received during work hours by close of business on the same day the email was received, unless I am out of the building.

