

AP Language & Composition Syllabus

RCAS Policies/Procedures

Students will be required to follow all RCAS policies and procedures. To view the RCAS High School Student Handbook, click [handbook](#).

Course Description

This writing-intensive course prepares students for college-level writing and introduces American literature. Students will write for various audiences and purposes and will read both fiction and nonfiction, analyzing writers' rhetorical styles. The course is recommended for students planning to enroll in AP Literature their senior year, and passing the AP exam earns a writing credit that most colleges require for all students.

Grading

Points shall be awarded for assignments, quizzes, and tests. Points will be awarded and collected cumulatively throughout the year. The final exam will be 10% of the course grade.

Textbook

The American Experience: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes. Prentice Hall: 2005.

Additional Reading

Novels:

Ray Bradbury – *The Illustrated Man*

F. Scott Fitzgerald – *The Great Gatsby*

John Steinbeck – *The Grapes of Wrath*

Short stories may include:

Karen Fowler – “The Lake Was Full of Artificial Things”

Nathaniel Hawthorne – “Dr. Hiedegger’s Experiment”

Ernest Hemmingway – “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber,” “Soldier’s Home”

Stephen King – “The Crate”

Washington Irving – “The Spectre Bridegroom”

Kurt Vonnegut – “The Euphio Question,” “Harrison Bergeron”

Poems:

Maya Angelou – “A Brave and Startling Truth” and “Still I Rise”

Anne Bradstreet – “Upon the Burning of Our House”

Emily Dickinson – “The Wind Begun to Rock the Grass”

Francis Scott Key – “The Star Spangled Banner”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – “The Ropewalk”

Non-fiction texts:

Isaac Asimov – “All Four Verses”

Benjamin Franklin “Letter to the Public Advertiser”

AP English Language & Composition Premium Prep. The Princeton Review. (2022).

Optional reading choices on attached reading list at end of syllabus

Instructional Resources

Website: www.turnitin.com

Website: AP College Board. www.apstudents.collegeboard.org

Essential Questions

- What is the value of literature in our lives?
- Why is it important to know an author’s point of view?
- How does language impact the meaning of a text?
- How does the interaction of text and reader create meaning?
- How do recurring patterns/ideas and our understanding of these affect our understanding of the text?

- How can we make our writing better?
- How do authors try to get big messages across in their writing? What techniques and strategies do they use?
- How do we determine the meaning of words?
- Why is research a necessary life skill?
- How can purpose and audience influence our writing?
- How do we determine the relevance and validity of a source?
- Why is it important to use multiple sources?
- Why is plagiarism wrong?
- What purpose does writing serve?
- Why is it important to know how language can be used to manipulate understanding of an issue?

Big Ideas and Enduring Understandings:

RHS-1: Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.

CLE-1: Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments.

REO-1: Writers guide understanding of a text's line of reasoning and claims through that text's organization and integration of evidence.

STL-1: The rhetorical situation informs the strategic stylistic choices that writers make.

Essential Learning Intentions:

RL1 – Students will be able to support textual analysis using cited and inferred evidence.

RL2 – Students will be able to determine and analyze theme(s) and the development within a text.

RL4 – Students will be able to determine figurative connotative and denotative meanings of words and phrases.

RL4 – Students will be able to analyze impact of word choice on meaning and tone.

RL6 – Students will be able to analyze an author's intent through explicit and implied language.

RI6 – Students will be able to determine how author's use of rhetoric, style & content express viewpoint.

W1 – Students will be able to write arguments to support their claims in an analysis.

W1 – Students will be able to use valid reasoning and sufficient, relevant evidence to support their claims.

W2 – Students will be able to write informative and explanatory text to convey complex ideas, concepts, and information.

W4 – Students will be able to write effectively, organizing appropriately for task, purpose, & audience.

W5 – Students will be able to improve their writing with a revision process for a specific purpose & audience.

W7 – Students will be able to research & synthesize multiple sources to answer a question/solve a problem.

W8 – Students will be able to gather, assess, & integrate multiple print/digital sources.

W8 – Students will be able to avoid plagiarism & follow a standard citation format.

L1 – Students will be able to show command in conventions & usage of standard grammar in writing & speech.

L6 – Students will be able to independently acquire & use vocab appropriate for college/career readiness

SL2 - Students will integrate multiple sources of information in various formats to make decisions and solve problems.

SL2 - Students will evaluate the credibility and accuracy of sources.

SL3 – Students will be able to evaluate a speaker's viewpoint, reasoning, use of evidence, rhetoric & tone used.

AP Language & Composition Independent Reading Options

- Albee* - Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
Allende, I. – My Invented Country
-Portrait in Sepia
Anaya - Bless Me, Ultima
Angelou – I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Atwood, M. - Cat's Eye
-The Blind Assassin
-Oryx and Crake
Auel - Clan of the Cave Bear
Baldwin - Go Tell It on the Mountain
Beckett - Waiting for Godot
Bellow – The Adventures of Augie March
-Seize the Day
Bowen - The Death of the Heart
Burch – They Cage the Animals at Night
Brooks – March
– Year of Wonders
Buck - The Good Earth
Bulosan - America is in the Heart
Carver, R. – Where I'm Calling From
Cather - Death Comes for the Archbishop
- My Antonia
Choi, S. – American Woman
Cooper - The Last of the Mohicans
Cunningham, M. – The Hours
Davies - Fifth Business
Dee - The Privileges
DeLillo, D. – Underworld
-White Noise
-Libra
Diaz, J.– The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Woo
– Drown
Dick, P. – Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
Doctorow, E.L. – The March
-Billy Bathgate
-Ragtime
Dreiser - An American Tragedy
-Sister Carrie
Egan, J. – The Invisible Circus
- The Keep
Edwards – The Memory Keeper's Daughter
Erdich - Love Medicine
-Tracks
Faulkner, W. - As I Lay Dying
-Light in August
-The Sound and the Fury
Fitzgerald – Tender is the Night
Foer – Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
Ford - Parade's End
- The Good Soldier
Ford, R. – Independence Day
-A Piece of My Heart
-The Sportswriter
Forster - A Passage to India
Franzen, J. – The Corrections
Gaines - A Gathering of Old Men
- A Lesson Before Dying
Glasgow- Vein of Iron
-Virginia
Gordimer - My Son's Story
Grau, S. – The Keeper of the House
Graves - I, Claudius
Greene - The Power and the Glory
Guest - Ordinary People
Guterson- Snow Falling on Cedars
Hammett - The Maltese Falcon
Hansbury - A Raisin in the Sun
Harding - Tinkers
Hawthorne, N. - The House of the Seven Gables
Heller, J. - Portrait of an Artist as an Old Man
Helprin, M. – A Soldier of the Great War
-Winter's Tale
Hemingway, E. - For Whom the Bell Tolls
- The Sun Also Rises
Holthe - When the Elephants Dance
Hurston - Their Eyes Were Watching God
Huxley, A. - Brave New World
James, H. - Daisy Miller
-The Turn of the Screw
Jen - Typical American
Johnson - Middle Passage
Johnson, - The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man
Johnson, D. – Tree of Smoke
Jones - Cry, the Beloved Country
Jones, E. - The Known World
Just, W. – An Unfinished Season
Keillor, G. - Lake Wobegon Days
Kennedy - Ironweed
Kesey, K. - One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
-Sometimes a Great Notion
Kingsolver, B. - Pigs in Heaven
-The Poisonwood Bible
-The Bean Trees
Knowles, J. - A Separate Peace
Kotlowitz - There Are No Children Here
Lee, Chang Rae – The Surrendered
Lewis - Main Street
Lowry- Under the Volcano
MacLennan - The Watch that Ends the Night
Mailer – Armies of the Night
Malamud, B. - The Assistant
Marshall - Praisesong for the Widow
Martin, L – The Bright Forever
McCarthy, C. - All the Pretty Horses
-The Road

-Blood Meridian
 -Cities of the Plain
 -No Country for Old Men
McCourt, F. - Angela's Ashes
McCullers, C. - The Member of the Wedding
 - The Heart is a Lonely Hunter
McDermott, A. - After This
 -That Night
Melville,-Billy Budd
 -Moby Dick
Miller, A. - Death of a Salesman
 -Tropic of Cancer
 -All My Sons
Momaday - House Made of Dawn
Morrison, T. -Song of Solomon
 -The Bluest Eye
 - Sula
Oates, J.C. - Blonde
O'Brien, T. - In The Lake of the Woods
 -Going After Cacciato
O'Connor, F. - Wise Blood
O'Connor, E. - The Edge of Sadness
Okada - No-No Boy
O'Neill - The Hairy Ape
 -Desire Under the Elms
Patchett, A. - Bel Canto
Penn - Moll Flanders
Percy - The Moviegoer
Plath, S. - The Bell Jar
Potok - The Chosen
Proulx - Postcards
 -The Shipping News
Racine - Phedre
Powers, R. – The Echo Maker
Rand, A. - The Fountainhead
 -Atlas Shrugged
Rhys - Wide Sargasso Sea
Richler, The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz
Robinson, M – Gilead
 – Housekeeping
Roth, P. – The Counterlife
 -American Pastoral
 -The Human Stain
Russell – Swamplandia!
Russo,R. – Empire Falls
Scott, J – The Manikin
Shaffer - Equus
Silko - Ceremony
Sinclair, U. - The Jungle
Smiley, J. – A Thousand Acres
Smith, A - Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Sontag, S. – In America
Stegner - The Angle of Repose
Steinbeck, J. - Winter of Our Discontent
 - The Pastures of Heaven
 -Cup of Gold

Stoppard - Rosencratz and Gildenstern Are Dead
Stowe - Uncle Tom's Cabin
Styron, W. – The Confessions of Nat Turner
Tan, A. - The Joy Luck Club
 - The Bonesetter's Daughter
Tyler - Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant
Waugh - A Handful of Dust
 -Brideshead Revisited
 -The Loved One
Welch - Winter in the Blood
Welty, E. - Delta Wedding
 -The Optimist's Daughter
West - The Day of the Locust
Wharton - Ethan Frome
Wideman - Sent for You Yesterday
Williams, T. - Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
 -A Streetcar Named Desire
 -The Glass Menagerie
Wilson, A. - Fences
 -Joe Turner's Come and Gone
 -,The Piano Lessons
Woolf, V. - Mrs. Dalloway
Wright - Native Son

*****Notes about the reading list*****

These titles are taken from many places, including but not limited to: past AP exam open questions, Pulitzer Prize winners, National Book Award winners, and *The New York Times* list of best contemporary American fiction.

I have read many, but not all of these titles, and will not guarantee that the content and/or language will always be G- or PG-rated. Use good judgment and research titles a bit in order to ensure that both you and your parents are comfortable with what you are reading.

**Some of these titles have been made into movies. Be careful – they are seldom the same as the novels! Differences will be obvious if you try to write an analysis of a movie.

This is and will continue to be a work in progress – titles will be added and removed as I read the books, listen to readers' reactions, and discover new titles.