

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Course Syllabus

Instructor: Sean Silvers – Available for conferences by appointment after school from 2:45-4:00 PM Monday, Thursday, and Friday

Email: ssilver@dpsk12.net

Phone: (720) 423-7121

Website: <http://ssilvers.tjsspartans.org/>

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to teach students reading and writing skills required in Freshman Composition and Introduction to Literature courses in college. With an emphasis on close reading and literary analysis, students will learn to engage deeply with a text and write what they know and learn in detail. Assignments in reading and/or writing are given every day for the purposes of discussion and development of major papers that meet the course requirements for AP English Literature.

- **Textbooks:** *The Bedford Introduction to Literature; How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster; *Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition* by Brandon Abdon and Rebecca McFarlane

Supplies needed:

- Binder w/dividers
- pens/pencils (pen is preferred); red pen (or other color for editing); highlighters
- Sticky Notes
- Chromebook
- Headphones

Google Apps for Education Use:

For many of your assignments, you will need to use Google's suite of Apps for Education. Denver Public Schools utilizes Google's suite as they ensure your privacy and protect personal information as required by Federal law.

While I understand that some students may not have Internet access at home, all online assignments will be given several days to complete. If you know you will have issues, plan ahead to come in at lunch or before/after school to use one of the Shield Center, computer lab, or the school library.

AP Literature and Composition Exam (May 3rd at 7:30 AM):

All students enrolled in AP Literature and Composition are expected to take the AP test. The cost of the exam may be reduced based on household income (as indicated by Free or Reduced Lunch status). Forms must be filled out in order to receive this reduction.

Make-Up Work/Late Work:

It is expected that students complete homework on time and individually, unless the assignment is explicitly to be done in pairs or groups. **LATE WORK** will be penalized for each day it is late with the exception of excused absences, IEPs, and 504s. To reward self advocacy, students can recover up to 90% on graded work that has been docked for lateness by coming in, meeting with me, and making teacher-suggested revisions. If a student has an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to get any missing assignments and turn them in within the 48 hours allotted by school policy.

Plagiarism and cheating:

Unless specifically instructed to work in groups or pairs, work is to be done individually. Work that is copied from another student or source is considered plagiarized and students will receive no credit, and possibly a referral for disciplinary action. This includes copying work from other classes. Please see the student handbook for more specific information. All major assignments will be uploaded into **Turn It In** this year.

Tests/Quizzes: When given, tests and quizzes are directly related to the content we are covering and are almost always announced at least one day in advance.

Grades: All homework, projects, written work, and tests are assigned a point value and placed in either the Process or Product category. Each category is calculated at a different weight (Process 20% and Product 80%) which then combine for a final grade in the course.

Checking grades/progress: Parents/guardians and students are strongly encouraged to monitor academic progress and grades. Schoology is a computer-based system and is the easiest and most thorough resource for keeping up to date with grades.

Attendance: Attendance in class is extremely important. School policy is followed for attendance.

Tardies: Students are expected to be in the classroom prepared to study when the bell rings. The accumulation of tardies in any classes will quickly add up to disciplinary action, including after school detentions and possible in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Cell phones and other electronic devices: Thomas Jefferson High School has a strict policy against the use of cell phones, music players, or video game devices at any time except before and after school and during lunch, whether in class or in the hallways.

Course Components:

Literature -- As the title of the course implies, the focus of the course is on imaginative literature, in other words fiction and poetry. As a class we will read several short stories, novels, and poems.

- Major Novels/Plays Studied:
 - *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
 - *In the Time of Butterflies*
 - *Frankenstein*
 - *Hamlet*
 - *The Stranger*
 - *Heart of Darkness*
- Poetry -- Studied throughout the year
- Composition -- In addition to literature, the course will also focus on the literary analysis essay. Through a series of short, medium, and long compositions, students will illuminate texts as artifacts of the human experience with messages to be shared across time and space.
- Prose:
 - Formal Short Story Analysis
 - Formal Novel Analysis
 - In-Class AP Timed Prose (short story and novel) Prompt Essays
- Poetry:
 - Formal Poetry Explication
 - In-Class AP Timed Poetry Prompt Essays

College Board's My AP Digital Platform:

College Board has made many changes to AP courses and exams. As part of these changes, they have created a digital platform for students to access class and exam resources, score reports, and digital portfolios. Students will log into the My AP platform using their user name and password from previous AP tests or the PSAT or SAT. We will take time as a class to set up this account for students. Please

note, the deadline for signing up to take the test is in early November this year. All students should plan on signing up for the exam and paying the appropriate fees at this time. More information will be given as we approach the deadline.

- **myap.collegeboard.org**

Join Codes: **Period 1 DJJ7XM**

Period 6 XD7R6E

Dear Parents or Guardians,

I am very pleased to have your child in my class. I value getting to know all of my students and helping them to draw upon their strengths to be successful learners. I emphasize respect and dignity in my classroom. These are values that are very important to me, and I expect students to demonstrate self-respect, tolerance, and acceptance of others. Discussing and debating ideas is an important part of what we will do this year, so it is vital that students feel safe and respected. I am looking forward to working with your student this semester. *Back to School Night* is September 8th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Sean Silvers

The following portion shows that you have read and understood the course guidelines, and asks for information so that I may contact you if the need arises.

(Please complete and return this page to me via your student. Thanks for printing neatly.)

Student Name

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) Name

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E Mail Address

How would you prefer I contact you, if necessary? Is there a best time?