AP English Literature and Composition

Overview, Expectations and Best Practices

Mira Costa High School
Taking an AP Class

- Taking an AP class gives college-level rigor. That’s great...
- It is good to present yourself with APPROPRIATE challenges.
- It is equally important to be well-rounded—socially and emotionally.
  - Colleges think so, too!
What AP class should I take?

- Take an AP class in a subject that interests you—in something you may want to pursue.
- Be sensible in balancing rigorous coursework with co-curricular activities and other demands on your time.
How can I plan for an ideal balance of academics, activities, and LIFE?

- Before you make your course selections for enrollment, complete a Time Management Activity Grid.
  - Find this at miracostahigh.org > Guidance > Student Resources
AP English Literature and Composition: Course Overview

In each of the first three quarters, we use literary examples from every genre to instruct students in the essentials of both reading and writing about literature. Our works include authors from the suggested list in the AP Course Description as well as some not included on the list. We attempt to expose students to a range of authorial voices—the works selected represent authors from the 16th century to the present, the voices are varied by ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. Our purpose in the construction of the reading list is to help students grapple with the complexities of the philosophical underpinnings inherent in any work of literature. Students explore the social and historical values of the characters as they interpret the works of literature. This exploration of character serves to help them define their understanding of the world they inhabit and their place within it as well as to enrich their ability to analyze and interpret the works of literature based upon such elements as structure, style, and theme. Students begin with an in-depth study of each of the three works read during the summer preceding AP English Literature. Students combine study of an in-class work with quarterly outside reading from an approved list.
AP English Literature and Composition: Pre-Requisites

- Required

- English 11 CP students: If you earn an A both semesters in English 11 CP you may move directly into AP English
  OR

- English 11 Honors students: If you earn an A or B both semesters of English 11 Honors you may move directly into AP English 12
AP English Literature and Composition: Let’s Be Real: Workload

- Here is what you can expect the workload of AP English to be, BEYOND THAT of the CP course curriculum:
  - Double the reading
  - Triple the writing
  - Increased requirements for independent research using scholarly sources
  - Double the discussion with higher expectations for participation
AP English Literature and Composition: Grade Composition and Weighting

- Writing is the most crucial component of the overall grade
- Participation in class discussion is a significant component of the final grade
What advice do you have for students to succeed in this course?

- Do the summer reading assignment carefully and thoughtfully as it will prepare you to succeed during the rest of the year
- Be prepared to participate regularly in class discussion
- Be open to constructive criticism
- Read ALL texts closely and thoroughly
- Participate in study groups
You’ll find all the writing daunting, but in the end, you will be prepared for the demands of college-level writing and the AP exam

You’ll find it inspiring to participate in a class with like-minded literary aficionados

You WILL improve as a writer and thinker
AP English Literature and Composition: Additional Information

- The course will prepare you to succeed on the AP Literature and Composition Exam, but taking the exam is optional
- AP Exams: May 2019
- Many colleges offer credit for the AP exam, and most will make placement decisions based upon your score