


Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

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Who should take Advanced Placement Literature and Composition?

- Students who enjoy and/or want to learn more about literature and writing
- Students who have felt bored or frustrated in their regular English courses
- Students who want to be surrounded by peers who have an advanced work ethic
- Students who want to be better prepared for college
- Students considering attending a private college or a more exclusive state college
- Students who would like the chance to earn college credit
- Students who want to improve their high school transcripts
- Students who want the personal satisfaction of knowing they challenged themselves
- Students who enjoy taking part in class discussions (or who also enjoy listening to them)

I don't plan to major in English. Should I still take AP Lit?

Absolutely! Most students who take AP English don't go on to major in English. However, reading and writing well are skills you will use in nearly all college courses, not to mention organizational skills and time management.

Students who take AP courses tend to perform better in college regardless of their major.

Is there summer work?

Of course, but it's to help you. The first month of the class is spent discussing the novels you read in the summer. I purposely assign the longest novel in the summer so that you have plenty of time to finish it without worrying too much about deadlines.



There are also writing assignments that you complete over the summer.

How many
books do
we read?

- That number isn't necessarily the same every year, but generally, you will read about five novels during the school year. You will also read two-three plays in class. Remember, AP English is a year-long class. You have more than enough time to get the work done with sufficient time in between assignments, if you pace yourself. Planning and organizational skills are imperative for success in this course.



Reading List

- Major Reading Text for the Course
 - Summer Reading
 - Select a Charles Dickens Novel: Bleak House, David Copperfield, Great Expectations, A Tale of Two Cities
 - Choice:
 - Ralph Ellison: Invisible Man
 - Herman Hesse: Siddhartha
 - School Year: (Subject to Change)
 - Hamlet- William Shakespeare (Textbook in class, recommended a paperback copy for annotating)
 - The Importance of Being Earnest- Oscar Wilde
 - Frankenstein- Mary Shelley
 - Wuthering Heights- Emily Bronte
 - Brave New World- Aldous Huxley
 - Waiting for Godot- Samuel Beckett
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How much homework do we have?



- Actually, there are very few traditional homework assignments; however, there are critical reading journals and prewriting exercises that are completed outside of class. Most of the assessments come in the form of reading quizzes, essays, and presentations. You will, however, always be reading something.



Do I have to buy
my own books?

- Yes. You will have a textbook that contains some of the works, but in general, you will have to purchase or borrow your own novels or plays. All are very easily found, new or used.

Should I take Honors or AP English Senior Year?

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What are the Course Requirements?

Honors: Anyone can Sign up.

AP: Usually Requires a Teacher's Recommendation.

What are its Advantages?

Honors: Looks Impressive on a College Resume.

AP: May Earn Students Real College Credit.

Which is Better for Future College Students?

Honors: Better for Students Applying to In-State Schools like the University of Tennessee system.

AP: Better for Students Applying to Elite & Out of State Colleges.

Who Develops the Curriculum?

Honors: Varies between The State of Tennessee, Teachers, and SCS Curriculum Specialists.

AP: The College Board.

How is it Weighted?

Honors: Three Point Increase.

AP: Five Point Increase.

Which is Harder?

Both are more challenging than regular classes, but AP tends to require more work.



Why should I take AP Literature instead of Dual Enrollment?

- AP helps prepare you for college.
- There is little academic support offered for students already taking college classes.
- Students also should not assume they will earn a better grade in college than they will in AP, thereby protecting their GPAs. That's not always the case.
- Also, AP credits are almost always accepted at various colleges, while post-secondary credits may not transfer.

But, I already took AP Language...



Remember, if you skip your senior year in English, you will have skipped a year of reading and writing.



College professors in upper-level courses (and not just English) may expect you to be familiar with texts you will not have read because you skipped the class.



But, the most important reason to take AP is because you will learn more; you will be more literate, academically and culturally; and you will continue to be an integral part of your high school. It's a decision that you and your family have to make together and decide what's right for you.

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Lastly...

- Some of the most competitive scholarship awards value AP exam grades:
- “Having the AP exam grade can make the difference when it comes down to awarding precious scholarship dollars.”
- —Edwina Harris Hamby, Dean of Admission
Fisk University

- Sample Syllabus and Assignments:
- <https://classroom.google.com/u/0/h>