

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Senior,

Congratulations on reaching your Senior year! You have chosen to take AP English Literature and Composition as your twelfth grade English course, and I look forward to sharing the year with you. We need to be ready to jump right into the content of the course when you return in September; therefore, you have summer assignments that you need to complete, which are due on the first day of school (Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>).

There are two books you need to read this summer. The first book is a non-fiction book titled *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* by Thomas Foster. Once you read this book, you need to write a response in MLA format (typed, double-spaced, size 12 font; the heading is on the upper left side of the paper). Your response is informal in the sense that I'm not giving you a prompt to guide you through, and that it can be written in a casual style; I just want you to tell me what you learned from the book, what you found interesting, what connections you made with it, etc. You should shoot for about 500-750 words. This book can be purchased at any Borders or Barnes & Noble, it can be ordered online through Amazon, or it can be checked out from your local library.

The second book you need to read is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, which is fiction. I highly recommend that you read this novel after you read Foster's book because the ideas in his book will help you. After you read the novel, you need to write an Analytical Essay, which should also be in MLA format. Besides telling you that you need a thesis statement to guide your essay, I'm leaving the structure and topic of the essay up to you. Consider focusing on elements such as symbolism, theme, structure, diction, etc. You can fall back on the 5-Paragraph structure, or you can approach it in another way. If you use information from outside sources, which you are encouraged to do, you need to correctly cite it. There is no page requirement for this essay because your length will depend on your structure, but you should aim for 750-1000 words. This book can also be purchased at any Borders or Barnes & Noble, it can be ordered online through Amazon, or it can be checked out from your local library.

If you have questions about the summer assignments, please come and see me in E206, or email me over the summer (Rebecca-Siegert@sac-city.k12.ca.us). Also, if you have a friend who should have received the summer assignments but did not, please tell them to visit me as well. Have a great summer, and I look forward to getting to know you next year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Siegert

## **Advanced Placement English 12: Literature and Composition**

### **Course Description**

AP English Literature and Composition is a college-level course that engages students in careful reading and critical analysis of literature, as set forth in the AP English Course Description. Through close reading of selected poetry and prose from around the world, with a major emphasis on British literature, students will deepen their understanding of the way writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers; additionally, students need to rely heavily on the knowledge acquired in the previous three years of high school English instruction. Daily, students will engage with aspects of the writing process, including appeals of argument (ethos, pathos, logos), and style (syntax, mechanics, diction) In May, students have the opportunity to take the AP Exam, which is administered by the College Board. Through successful completion of the exam (a score of 3 or higher), students may be eligible to earn college credit.

### **Requirements**

AP English Literature and Composition is open to any student who is recommended by a previous English teacher to take the class. There are weekly vocabulary and literary terminology quizzes, along with occasional homework quizzes, and unit tests. For each structured unit, you must write an analytical essay, and you have 6 outside reading assignments throughout the year. Additionally, there are weekly AP-style timed essays, multiple choice AP Exams, and other types of assignments such as verbal presentations and outside research that require a written component. Overall, throughout the course of the year, you will write approximately 40 essays, and revise many of them. In addition to the literature that we read in class together and the work that goes along with it, you will be reading approximately one novel/play per month.

### **Structure of Course**

There are eight main units that are covered throughout the year:

- **September 8—October 9:** Summer Assignments
- **October 12—November 6:** Anglo-Saxon/Middle Ages Literature
- **November 9—November 24:** Contemporary Drama
- **November 30—December 18:** Short Stories
- **January 4—January 29:** Shakespearean Drama
- **February 1—March 5:** Poetry
- **March 8—May 7:** AP Test Prep
- **May 10—June 14:** Film Analysis