

COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year	2025-26	Subject	AP Lit. & Comp.
Teacher	B. Wolfe	Grade Level	G11 - G12

COURSE DESCRIPTION *From the 2024 AP Literature & Composition Course and Exam Description:*

The AP Literature & Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (short/long fiction, poetry, drama, as well as some creative non-fiction) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's themes, structure, and style, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

COURSE OBJECTIVES *Curricular requirements (CR) are mandatory elements of all AP courses, and they can be found in the 2024 AP Literature & Composition Course and Exam Description. Course objectives listed below are designed strictly by applying the CRs.*

By the end of the semester/school year, (SWAT) Students will be able to:

- define 'character' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'setting' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'plot' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'narrator' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'structure' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'word choice' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'symbolism' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'imagery' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'comparison' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- define 'theme' as a literary element and explain its role in story development.
- differentiate various poetic forms and explain their uses as mechanisms for poetic expression.
- critically evaluate author choices and explain their own scholarly evaluations of those choices, in sustained essays of various lengths.
- demonstrates proficiency in responding to exam prompts, in both the multiple choice and the essay answer formats.

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES

Primary Texts:

- *5 Steps to a 5: AP English Literature and Composition*. Hartnett, M. and Murphy, B. (2025). McGraw-Hill.
- *Greek Drama*. Hadas, M. [Ed.] (1965). Bantam. *[Drama Collection]*
- *Beowulf*. Heaney, S. [Trans.]. (1999). Farrar, Straus and Giroux. *[Epic Poem]*
- *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. Shakespeare, W. (c. 1601). Public Domain. *[Drama]*
- *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories*. Kafka, F. (1948). Schocken Books. *[Story Collection]*
- *Death of a Salesman*. Miller, A. (1949). Penguin Books. *[Drama]*
- *The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor*. (1962). Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. *[Short Story]*
- *A Raisin in the Sun*. Hansberry, L. (1959). Random House. *[Drama]*

- *Grendel*. Gardner, J. (1971). Vintage. [Novel]
- *The Woman Warrior*. Kingston, M. H. (1975). Vintage. [Creative Non-Fiction]
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Hosseini, K. (2007). Riverhead. [Novel]

Secondary Texts:

- *A Concise Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory*. Hawthorn, J. (1998). Oxford University Press.
- *A Handbook to Literature*. Harmon, W. (2012). Pearson Education.
- *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*. Saunders, G. (2021). Random House. [Essay Collection]
- *How Fiction Works*. Wood, J. (2009). Picador. [Essay Collection]
- *How to Read and Why*. Bloom, H. (2001). Scribner. [Essay Collection]
- *Shakespeare After All*. Garber, M. (2004). Anchor Books. [Essay Collection]
- *The Complete Walt Whitman*. Murphy, F. [Ed.]. (1975). Penguin Books. [Poetry]

Additional Texts:

The instructor reserves the right to choose and introduce literature and essays that may supplement the prescribed reading list and enhance student understanding of course material.

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT

Grading As 'grades' are not an emphasis and *will not be spoken about in the classroom, daily/weekly/quarterly assignments, as well as the scores for each, are fluid and ever-changing. Specific details will be provided at relevant times.

* - This course will not be reduced to a race for the highest GPA in the room. The purpose of the course is to engage with the coursework and the literature on which that coursework is focused. The teacher will not be lured into repetitive discussions regarding grades, grading, and appeals of either one.

Assessments Assessments will include but not be limited to the following formats. The course instructor reserves the right to assess progress, then design/implement various assessment tools as needed.

- Exam Rubric Application *Students will study successful end-of-course exam answers and apply College Board rubrics to evaluate the content.*
- Timed Practice Essays *Students will write essay responses to sample exam prompts.*

Assessments (cont.)

- Multiple Choice Practice *Students will read literature excerpts and respond to multiple choice questions from the Exam Preparation booklet.*
- Reading Accountability Quizzes *Students will complete minor assessment srelated to reading assignments.*
- Oral Presentations *Students will present analytical/informative material that relates either to reading assignments or broader course objectives.*
- Full-length essays *AP College Board requires AP Literature scholars to write sustained critical/argumentative/comparative essays related to course work.*
- Seminar Discussions *Students will be asked occasionally to lead roundtable discussions in response to reading assignments.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Google Classroom *Will be updated daily; students are responsible for consistently referring to this community resource for course information and updates.*
- Homework *Will be assigned on a limited basis, as the instructor prefers classwork; most homework assignments will involve reading.*
- Text Copies *Student copies of the books/texts are required in class. A 'Preparation' grade will be included on each gradebook.*
- Participation *Success of classroom discussion requires maximum participation on the part of all AP Literature scholars.*
- Attendance *Each student is individually responsible for make-up work in the case of missed assignments and discussions.*
- Select Reading *Each semester, students will be asked to select a short text they will read and present to the class as an independent analysis project. There is no option to avoid this assignment or substitute an additional task.*

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work;
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (cont.)

- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

****Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task!****

Tentative 1st Quarter Schedule

Week 1 (1) 10-14 August <i>10: Last Day of Orientation</i> <i>11: Classes Begin</i> <i>14: Opening Mass</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Course Expectations and Requirements / Intro to Poetry MATERIALS - <i>AP Literature & Composition Course and Exam Description</i> (College Board pub.) - <i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i> (McGraw-Hill) - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ1 essays - End-of-course FRQ1 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a poem - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ1 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write diagnostic MCQ / FRQ1 practice assessments - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected poems - Apply the FRQ1 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected poems
Week 2 (2) 17-21 August	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Shakespeare's Sonnets and <i>Hamlet</i> MATERIALS - <i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i> (McGraw-Hill) - <i>The Oxford Shakespeare: Hamlet</i> (Oxford World's Classics) - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ1 essays - End-of-course FRQ1 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a poem - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ1 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ1 practice assessments with Shakespeare-focused prompts - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected scene and sonnets - Apply the FRQ1 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected scenes/sonnets
Week 3 (3) 24-28 August	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Shakespeare's Sonnets and <i>Hamlet</i> MATERIALS - <i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i> (McGraw-Hill) - <i>The Oxford Shakespeare: Hamlet</i> (Oxford World's Classics) - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ1 essays - End-of-course FRQ1 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a poem - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ1 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ1 practice assessments with Shakespeare-focused prompts - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected scene and sonnets - Apply the FRQ1 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected scenes/sonnets

Week 4 (4) 31 Aug.-4 Sept.	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Modern Poets MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill) - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ1 essays - End-of-course FRQ1 essay rubrics - Poetry that exists in the public domain, collected by the teacher - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a poem - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ1 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ1 practice assessments - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected poems - Apply the FRQ1 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected poems
Week 5 (5) 7-11 September <i>7: Mass / VIP Induction</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Modern Poets MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill) - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ1 essays - End-of-course FRQ1 essay rubrics - Poetry that exists in the public domain, collected by the teacher - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a poem - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ1 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ1 practice assessments - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected poems - Apply the FRQ1 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected poems
Week 6 (6) 14-18 September	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Poetry Review / FRQ1 Essay Practice Week MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill) - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ1 essays - End-of-course FRQ1 essay rubrics - Poetry that exists in the public domain, collected by the teacher - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a poem - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ1 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write one extended literary analysis essay from a previous FRQ1 prompt response - Review poetry by writing two MCQ poetry review quizzes - Review poetry by writing two timed responses to FRQ1 prompts
Week 7 (7) 21-25 September <i>Only 4 days of school this week</i> <i>22-24: Pre-Exam Days</i> <i>25: Moon Festival Holiday</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: The FRQ3 Essay MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill) - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ3 essays

	- End-of-course FRQ3 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ3 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Practice writing FRQ3 essays - Select a work previously studied this quarter and use it for FRQ3 essay responses - Apply FRQ3 rubric requirements in peer review of classmates' work
Week 8 (8) 28 Sept.-2 Oct. <i>No School: 25 Sept.</i> <i>Only 4 days of school this week</i> <i>28: Confucius/Teachers' Holiday</i> <i>1-2: Qtr. Exam Half-Days</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Quarter Exam Week MATERIALS: Quarter Exams (MCQ / FRQ1 and FRQ3 prompts) AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - All skills covered in assignments and assessments this quarter STUDENTS WILL: Complete the three-part Quarter Exam
End of 1st Quarter Professional Development Week (5-8 Oct.)	

Tentative 2nd Quarter Schedule

Week 1 (10) 12-16 October	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: The Literary Analysis Essay / Literary Criticism MATERIALS - Essay samples and topic selection survey - Examples of literary criticism by Bloom, Eliot, Baldwin, Morrison, Vidal, etc. - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed, to include short stories in the public domain (Hemingway, Marquez, Chopin, etc.) AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Compose a literary analysis essay, revising and extending at least twice - Identify and evaluate effective use of literary techniques - Adhere to the standards and conventions of written English STUDENTS WILL: - Select a work and an essay/inquiry topic - Choose at least two samples of professional criticism pertaining to their chosen work and/or artist - Submit an outline and *first draft (Friday) * - Revised draft due on Friday, 6 November, with in-class writing time
Week 2 (11) 19-23 October	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Short Stories / Novellas (<i>Metamorphosis</i>, Kafka) MATERIALS - <i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i> (McGraw-Hill) - <i>The Metamorphosis and Other Stories</i>. Kafka, F. (Schocken Books) - <i>The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor</i>. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ2 essays - End-of-course FRQ2 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed, to include short stories in the

	public domain (Hemingway, Marquez, Chopin, etc.) AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a short piece of fiction - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ2 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ2 practice assessments - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected short passages - Apply the FRQ2 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected short passages
Week 3 (12) 26-30 October <i>Only 4 days of school this week</i> <i>26: No Classes - Public Holiday</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Short Stories / Novellas (Stories of Flannery O'Connor) MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill) - <i>The Metamorphosis and Other Stories</i>. Kafka, F. (Schocken Books) - <i>The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor</i>. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ2 essays - End-of-course FRQ2 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed, to include short stories in the public domain (Hemingway, Marquez, Chopin, etc.) AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a short piece of fiction - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ2 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ2 practice assessments - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected short passages - Apply the FRQ2 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected short passages
Week 4 (13) 2-6 November <i>2: All Souls' Mass</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Short Stories / Novellas (Ernest Hemingway) MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill) - <i>The Metamorphosis and Other Stories</i>. Kafka, F. (Schocken Books) - <i>The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor</i>. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ2 essays - End-of-course FRQ2 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed, to include short stories in the public domain (Hemingway, Marquez, Chopin, etc.) AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a short piece of fiction - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ2 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ2 practice assessments - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected short passages - Apply the FRQ2 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected short passages - Submit *first revised draft of literary analysis essay (Friday) * - Revised draft due on Friday 4 December, with in-class writing time
Week 5 (14) 9-13 November	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Short Stories / Novellas (Gabriel Garcia-Marquez) MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill)

	- <i>The Metamorphosis and Other Stories</i>. Kafka, F. (Schocken Books) - <i>The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor</i>. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ2 essays - End-of-course FRQ2 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed, to include short stories in the public domain (Hemingway, Marquez, Chopin, etc.) AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a short piece of fiction - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ2 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ2 practice assessments - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected short passages - Apply the FRQ2 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected short passages
Week 6 (15) 16-20 November 20: <i>Young Shakespeare</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Short Stories / Novellas (Student Selections) MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill) - <i>The Metamorphosis and Other Stories</i>. Kafka, F. (Schocken Books) - <i>The Complete Stories of Flannery O'Connor</i>. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ2 essays - End-of-course FRQ2 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed, to include short stories in the public domain (Hemingway, Marquez, Chopin, etc.) AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a short piece of fiction - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ2 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write MCQ / FRQ2 practice assessments - Read, analyze, and compose essays in response to selected short passages - Apply the FRQ2 rubric to sample answers - Participate in whole-class and small-group discussions of selected short passages
Week 7 (16) 23-27 November 24-26: <i>Pre-Exam Days</i> 27: <i>G12 Qtr. Exams</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Poetry Review / FRQ1 Essay Practice Week MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill) - Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ1 essays - End-of-course FRQ1 essay rubrics - Poetry that exists in the public domain, collected by the teacher - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - Explain the function of language and poetic devices in a poem - Explain the poet's use of setting and development of character - Express an argument regarding an interpretation of text - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ1 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Write one extended literary analysis essay from a previous FRQ1 prompt response - Review poetry by writing two MCQ poetry review quizzes - Review poetry by writing two timed responses to FRQ1 prompts
Week 8 (17) 30 Nov.-4 Dec. 30: <i>G12 Qtr. Exams</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: The FRQ3 Essay MATERIALS - <u><i>5 Steps to a 5: 2025-26 AP Lit Test Prep Manual</i></u> (McGraw-Hill)

	- Samples of successful end-of-course FRQ3 essays - End-of-course FRQ3 essay rubrics - Teacher may provide supplemental materials as needed. AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - All skills required for successful composition of an FRQ3 essay response STUDENTS WILL: - Practice writing FRQ3 essays - Select a work previously studied this quarter and use it for FRQ3 essay responses - Apply FRQ3 rubric requirements in peer review of classmates' work
Week 9 (18) 7-11 December <i>10-11: Qtr. Exam Half-Days</i>	INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS: Quarter Exam Week MATERIALS: Quarter Exams (MCQ / FRQ2 and FRQ3 prompts) AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SKILLS EMPHASIZED - All skills covered in assignments and assessments this quarter STUDENTS WILL: Complete the three-part Quarter Exam
CHRISTMAS BREAK (12 Dec.-3 Jan.)	