

# Advanced Placement English Course Outline

The study of writing and the study of literature are inextricably intertwined. AP English brings a focus on classic literature and college level analysis and writing. Some writing assignments will be in conjunction with a reading assignment and others will be independent of a specific piece of literature.

The following is an outline of the various units that will be covered over the course of the school year. Fourth quarter is intentionally sparse as I anticipate many of the projects in the first three quarters to spill over past their designated time. I reserve the right to rearrange, eliminate, or add to anything on the list. 😊

- **Quarter One:**
  - Career Skills and Professional Portfolio
  - Nonfiction (memoir and essay)
    - Introduction to Stylistic Analysis/Prose Analysis
    - Reading Essays for Understanding
    - Oral and Written Analyses of Essays
    - Timed Writing on Prose Passages (Impromptu)
- **Quarter Two:**
  - Short Stories
    - Elements of Fiction
    - Analysis of Conflict for Theme
    - Analysis of Various Literary Devices for Theme
    - Short Story Analysis with Oral Presentations
    - Timed-Writing on Fiction (Impromptu)
    - Writing the Analytical Paper
  - Poetry
    - Introducing Poems
    - Identifying Tools of Analysis/Poetic Terminology
    - Unlocking the Poem
    - Experiencing the Analytic Process
    - Poem Analysis by a Group with Oral Presentation
    - Timed-Writing on Poetry (Impromptu)
    - Developing an Analytical Paper
- **Quarter Three**
  - Drama
    - The Elizabethan Renaissance and William Shakespeare
      - *Hamlet*
      - Analytical Paper
    - Modern Drama
      - *Death of a Salesman*
      - *A Raisin in the Sun*
      - Timed Writing on Drama (Impromptu)
- **Quarter Four**
  - Film Analysis
    - American History X – thematic tie-in with *A Raisin in the Sun*

- Advanced Placement Test Preparation and Practice
  - A score of 3 or higher on a choice of two exams provides college credit and course waivers. The AP program is an international one, with colleges and universities across the globe recognizing the achievements of accomplished students. A brochure provided later in the course will provide more information and answer frequently asked questions. 2010 dates are Thursday, May 6 for English Literature and Composition test and Wednesday, May 12 for English Language and Composition test. Both exams, which cost \$84 each last year, are scheduled in the morning and can be taken in Mrs. Maz's office. For more information about AP programs, visit <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>.
  - Additional Incentive Note: Chinook High School has an agreement with the College of Great Falls and with MSU-Northern to grant credit/exemption from freshman composition if you have earned a B average or better in English 11/American Literature AND you earn a B average or better in Advanced Placement English.

#### Other Odds and Ends...

- **Writer's Notebook**
  - Three to four days a week, class will begin with a short time to respond to a quote, question, news article, or other type of writing prompt. Many of these short pieces are developed and polished into larger formal writing assignments at a later time.
  - Notebooks will be **evaluated twice each quarter**. Grammar and spelling will not be graded since these are written quickly without time for revision. I will be looking for depth and quality of writing. In other words, **I will evaluate the student's effort and level of critical thinking** regarding the prompts given.
- **Word for the Day**
  - **Every day will begin with a new vocabulary word**. Its spelling, definition, and synonyms should be recorded in a notebook or on note cards. **Every other Friday** students will be expected to **complete a quiz** on the ten words accumulated in that time. These quizzes usually average 50 points and will ask students to demonstrate understanding and application (not simple memorization) of the vocabulary words.
  - These quizzes will take the form of an essay test or short answer format and will tap a student's knowledge of current events as well as test-across-the-curriculum aptitudes.
  - This program also allows students a chance to earn **extra credit**. Use of vocabulary words in a student's writing (formal as well as informal writing and tests/quizzes) will earn them a bonus point for each word, with a **limit of seven bonus points per assignment**.
- **Reading Workshop**
  - It has been said that if a teacher values something, they must make time for it. Because being a good reader is so vital to being a good writer, reading is of immeasurable value in an English classroom. **Each quarter** students will be required to **read and respond to an outside reading book**.

- During the **first quarter**, students will choose a book from the Challenged Book lists, and Each Monday will be dedicated to reading silently in class. First quarter students will be required to complete a Challenged Book Paper in response to their chosen book.
- If you start a book and don't like it, choosing a different book is perfectly acceptable. Just be sure to leave enough time to complete the book and response before the due date at the end of the quarter.
- You must **spend the entire period** reading, working on your Challenged Book Paper, or writing ideas in your writer's notebook.
- **For the second, third, and fourth quarters** students will participate in **literature circles** and Mondays will be dedicated to group discussion. The details of literature circles will be discussed at a later date.