

AP English Literature & Composition

Welcome to AP Literature & Composition. The major concepts and content of AP English Literature and Composition are designed to be the equivalent of a college/university level course, thus the “AP” designation on a transcript rather than “H” (Honors) or “CP” (College Prep). This course will provide you with the intellectual challenges and workload consistent with a typical undergraduate university English literature/ Humanities course. As a culmination of the course, you will take the AP English Literature and Composition Exam given in May. A grade of 4 or 5 on this exam is considered equivalent to a 3.3–4.0 for comparable courses at the college or university level. A student who earns a grade of 3 or above on the exam will be granted college credit at most colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Course Goals

1. To carefully read and critically analyze imaginative literature.
2. To understand the way writers use language to provide meaning and pleasure.
3. To consider a work’s structure, style, and themes as well as smaller scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.
4. To study representative works from various genres and periods (from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century) and to know a few works extremely well.
5. To understand a work’s complexity, to absorb richness of meaning, and to analyze how meaning is embodied in literary form.
6. To consider the social and historical values a work reflects and embodies. To write, focusing on critical analysis of literature including expository, analytical, and argumentative essays as well as creative writing to sharpen understanding of a writers’ accomplishments and deepen appreciation of literary artistry. To become aware of, through speaking, listening, reading, and, chiefly, writing, the resources of language: connotation, metaphor, irony, syntax, and tone.

Summer Reading

To start off the course, over the summer, read *1984* by George Orwell. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is an iconic dystopian novel written in 1948 and published in 1949, just after WWII. Orwell warns future generations of the consequences of totalitarian governments similar to what was experienced with socialism in Nazi Germany and with the communist government in Russia following the Bolshevik Revolution. In the world of the novel, Orwell showed great foresight with the role of technology in a society where privacy does not exist and government control is absolute. Technology today is more and more controlling and invasive, making Orwell’s novel a relevant point of discussion in our society.

As you read, notice how the government manipulates citizens through propaganda, the control of language and thought, and how the government incites the population against a common and contrived enemy as a means of gaining support for itself.

The second reading is *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. The allegorical novel portrays the events of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia in 1917 and the socialist dictatorship that followed.

See the attached assignments for each reading.

1. Read *1984* by George Orwell.
2. Identify literary devices used in the novel by completing the attached handout.
3. Complete the pre-writing assignment on propaganda, scapegoating and euphemisms.
4. Complete the pre-writing assignment on characterization.
5. Read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.
6. Freewrite for each chapter of *Animal Farm*.

If you have any questions, send an email. Walter.hand@demingps.org

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