



Course Syllabus

John Jay High School
AP Language and Composition
Grade 12
2021-2022

Instructor Information

Instructor: Robert Fletcher
Room: 101
E-mail: @robert.fletcher@wcsdny.org
Extra Help Time: 7-8:15, 11-11:45, 1:30-2:25, and by appointment after school

Course Identification

Course Number: E681
Course Name: AP Literature & Composition
Course Location: 101
Prerequisites: Must have successfully completed English 11 or English AP with an average of at least 92% and have excellent writing skills and passed the English Regents (this could be waived for COVID). Students are accepted only by departmental selection and approval.

Course Description/Overview

Students will focus on close, critical reading of poetry, drama, prose, fiction, and expository texts from the sixteenth century to the present. Critical discussion and writing about these works will focus on each writer's technique, theme, style and tone.

Course Resources

Course Website(s)

- <https://www.wappingersschools.org/Domain/1311>
- <https://apclassroom.collegeboard.org/>

Required Course Texts: *Sound & Sense*

Possible Course Texts: Various novels and poems from the aforementioned periods.

Course Fees/Supplies

- AP Exam fee: \$96
- Looseleaf paper
- Multiple pencils and pens
- One pocket folder

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- gain experience in reading sophisticated works of literature
- learn analytical techniques which apply to the study of any poem or work of literature
- understand literary works within historical, philosophical, and religious contexts
- learn to compare and contrast literary works in terms of content and style
- refine writing skills by writing sustained, well-organized, and well-documented papers investigating a specific thesis
- refine writing skills by writing numerous analytical and personal essays
- refine communication skills by participating in and conducting intellectual discussions in seminar situations
- refine grammatical and rhetorical skills through direct instruction and reinforcement, peer review, and student revision
- gain experience in independent, critical thinking and individual research
- actively engage in sophisticated discussions of literature, poetry, and philosophy
- cooperate on long-term projects and presentations
- develop a mature writing voice and awareness of audience and purpose
- understand and applying close reading techniques of poetry and prose

Grading Scheme

Quarterly Averages

Grades will be an average of total points, calculated by the **total number of accumulated points** divided by the total number of available points each quarter. Major writing assignments and projects will account for the greatest number of points, while classwork and homework assignments will generally be worth fewer points. Class participation will also count as part of your quarterly average.

Late Assignments

All assignments must be submitted on time unless prior arrangements have been made. Late classwork and homework assignments will receive half credit. Larger assignments will lose 10 points for each school day that they are late.

Assessments

- AP-style essays
- Online responses to prose and poetry
- Long-form essays with independently generated thesis statements
- Group presentations
- The AP Exam (taken in May) may determine your eligibility for college credit, but

will not be counted in your average.

Course Policies

"We are only healthy to the extent that our ideas are humane." -- Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Respect

First and foremost, we will create an environment of **respect for all human beings** in our classroom. We will all listen, think, and learn from each other.

Participate

Contribute to class discussion on a regular basis - offer an interpretation, answer a question, ask a clarifying question, state an opinion that relates to the topic at hand. Everyone's voice matters and must be heard.

Be Proactive

Take notes, always, on paper of your choice. Be organized! Use loose-leaf for classwork that is collected. Assignments that run two or more pages should be **STAPLED BEFORE** coming to class, or even better, choose the option on your printer that allows you to print on both sides of a page.

Read and Keep Reading

The single most important activity you will engage in during the year to maintain success in the AP Literature classroom is reading – a lot. As the “literature” of the course title suggests, you will be reading more in this class than you ever have before. Staying on top of that reading and maintaining a regular reading schedule is going to be important. The reward for doing so will be more invigorating class discussion, a broader body of knowledge, expanded cultural literacy, and, of course, higher grades. Poetry is also a *major* component of your reading, a good portion of which we will be doing in class.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. Plagiarized assignments will receive zeros. Your integrity and reputation, your status in class, college recommendations, and acceptance at favored colleges/universities could be jeopardized if you participate in academic dishonesty in any way.

It is also important that you avoid looking up summaries, explanations, or analysis for what we read in class. This information can be helpful **AFTER** we have discussed a text, but I would rather you try your best and be wrong than use ideas that are not your own.

Wappingers Central School District is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed,

and/or in need of support, services are available. For help or to find additional resources, talk to your guidance counselor or visit the [School Counseling website](#).